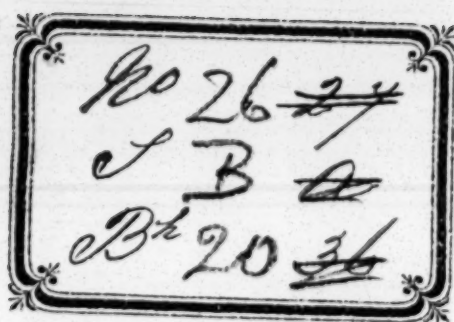


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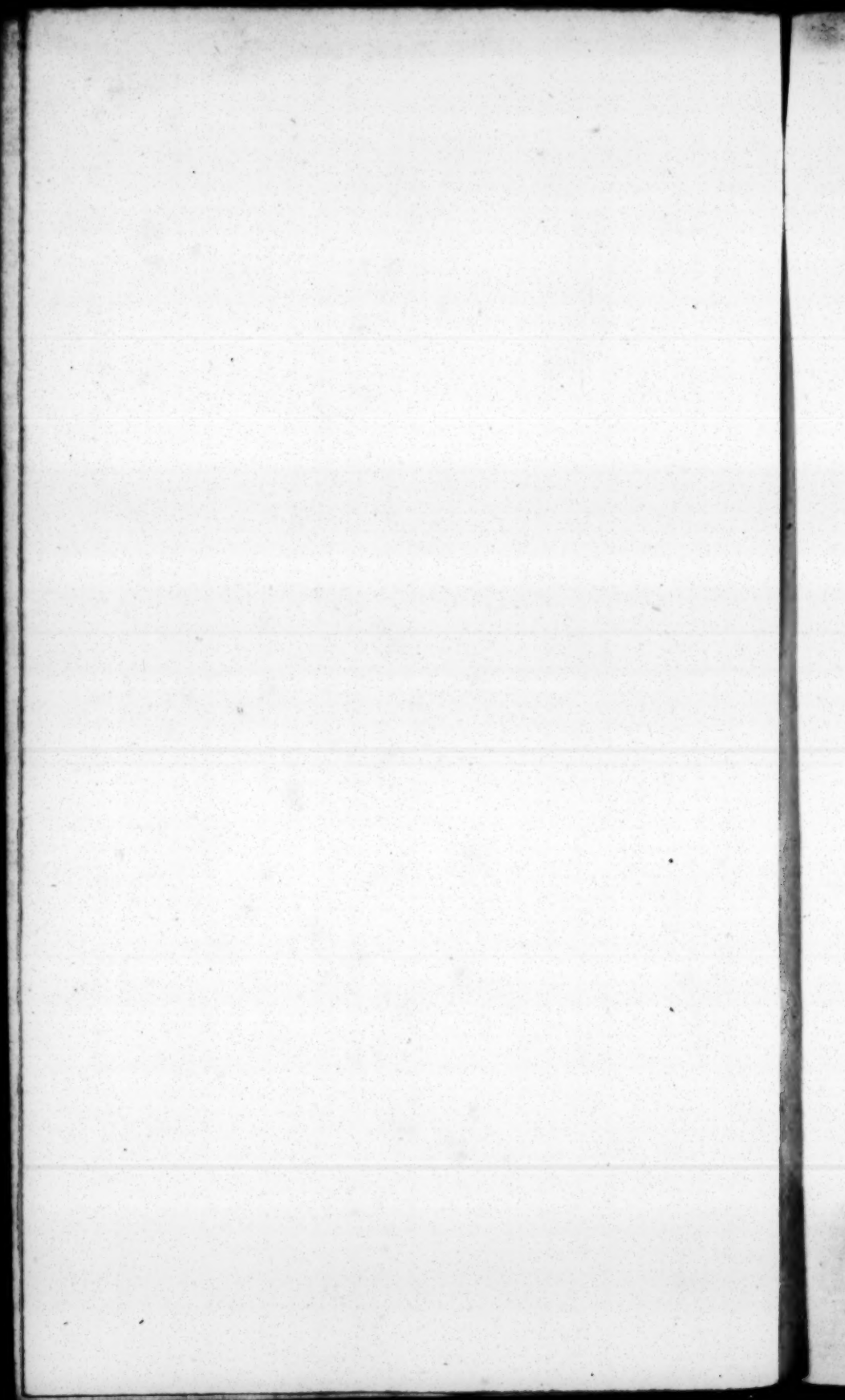
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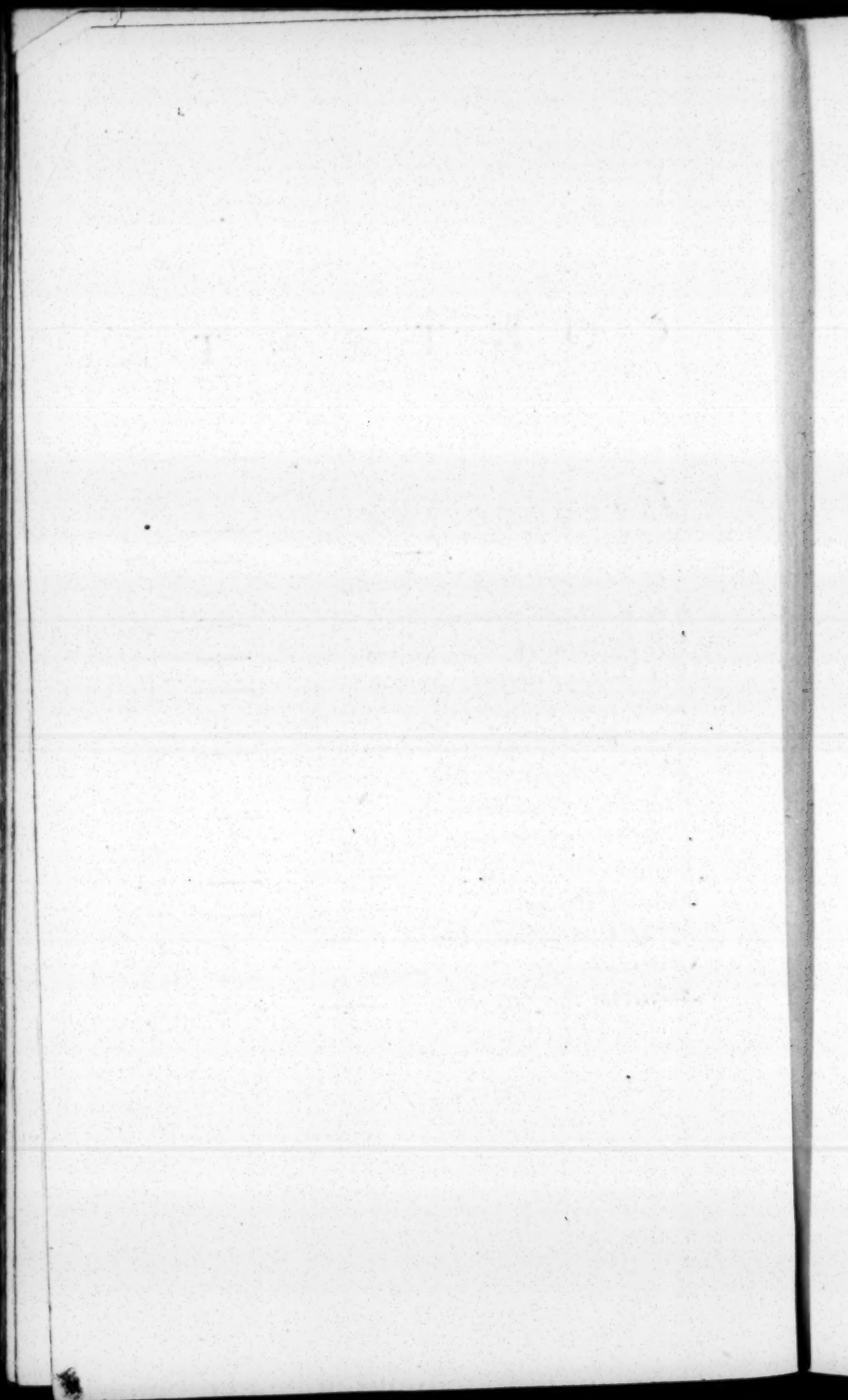
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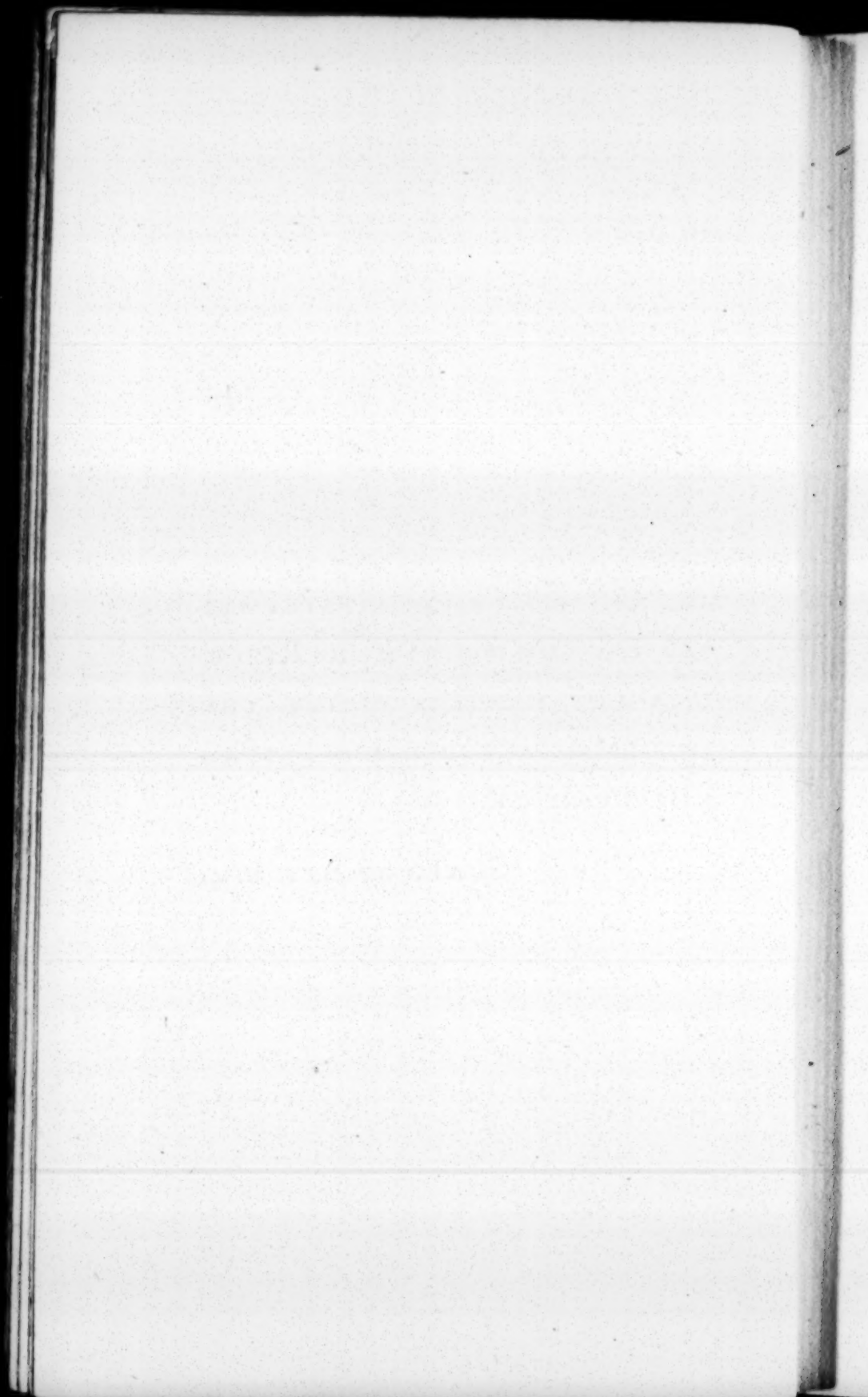


## INTRODUCTION.

PRÆCLARA IGITUR CONSCIENTIA SUS-  
TENTOR, CUM COGITO ME DE REPUB-  
LICA AUT MERUISSE OPTIME CUM  
POTUERIM; AUT CERTE NUNQUAM  
NISI DIVINE COGITASSE.

CICERO AD ATT. X. 4.





---

## INTRODUCTION.

**W**HEN the idea of our present Institution first occurred to my mind, I freely confess, it was chiefly from motives of mere HUMANITY that I wished its establishment. Experience, for the space of *two years*, hath fully evinced the justice and propriety of that motive, while at the same time it hath superadded many more for the encouragement and support of the design.

The laws, much abused it is said, —and what will not artful villainy elude and abuse?—have amply provided for the relief of considerable Debtors. The man, who engages for thousands which he cannot pay, has an abundant resource in bankruptcy; resigns his all, and resumes his occupation and his credit.

iv INTRODUCTION.

The man, who perhaps for the very necessities of life, and the supply of his dependant family, runs a few pounds, or even a few shillings in debt, is cruelly arrested, torn from his home and his business! and plunged in a prison, has neither ability nor hope to defray his Creditor's demands, or procure his own discharge\*. Is this an equal distribution of justice? Ought not the latter case to be peculiarly considered?

For what is the man whom you thus imprison?—Look upon the books of our Society, and you will learn from thence, that *Manufacturers, Mechanics, Labourers, Seamen*, † and other useful  
members

\* See Note, page 22.

† We do not exclude poor and unhappy *Foreigners* from a participation of the public bounty. To be *strangers* is a sufficient motive with us, to *take them into* the house of mercy and relief. We have been happy to discharge several of this sort. However, two of the Rules of the Committee, at the beginning of this Charity  
were,

## INTRODUCTION. v

members of the meaner, but essential branches of Trade and Commerce, are those whom confinement withholds from their occupations: men, who derive their daily sustenance from their daily labour; and who, cut off from that labour by imprisonment, not only occasion thereby a considerable loss to the Commonwealth, but bring a heavy burden on others by the charitable maintenance which themselves and their families must have from parochial or other supply.

Thus it is not only *unjust*, in a comparative view of the Law, to suffer the large Debtor, and whose debts perhaps materially affect a very extensive circle, to enjoy freedom and impunity; while the small Debtor, whose inconsiderable contracts cannot much affect any, is

were,—and they have been invariably observed,—  
1st. “To meet entirely at their own expence: and  
2d. To prefer the cases of the most useful Artificers, Manufacturers, &c. and of those with the largest families.”

vi INTRODUCTION.

immured in a grievous and noisome Prison.\*

It

\* A benevolent Writer, who is always employing his thoughts with a view to the Public good, has observed in one of the public Papers, that "no person, except a Peer or Senator, is exempt from personal arrests, and even a detention of many hours, by the evasions and delusions of Bailiffs; if a person owes only forty shillings to any extortionate, litigious Creditor, who can immediately obtain a Writ, often by a false, malicious oath, deprive his Debtor of liberty, and prevent him to transact the most important business for his own private profit, or even for the public benefit of the State, which may require the utmost expedition that very day or hour: and passion, malice, or revenge, may be the only motive of the Creditor who can even arrest his Debtor before the account of his demand is delivered, without any previous application for the payment, and without any refusal or delay.

"The very payment of the sum at the instant of the arrest, is often not sufficient to obtain immediate liberty, and to prevent an expensive and deplorable privation of it for many hours, and some days, if the Writ is issued out of the Sheriff's Office; as the Bailiffs often detain the unfortunate



## INTRODUCTION. vii

It is also in the highest degree *impolitic*, as thus many of the most useful, nay  
b 4 the

fortunate arrested, to his present and future inconvenience, loss, expence, discredit, and, probably, even ruin, under their false and iniquitous general pretexts to examine the Office, or that the Office is shut, as it happens to be at certain hours and days, particularly Sundays, &c. so that if a man happens unfortunately to be arrested upon a Saturday at night, or is designedly so from malevolence, he must remain in an imposing Spunging-house at least till Monday.

“ One’s own house, or apartment, is not even an azyle or refuge always in this country against such malevolent surprizes, insults, and arrests. A man is liable to them within his own walls and doors, being seldom or never secure therein; though the Law prohibits the forcible opening of a door, yet the Bailiffs find means to evade that prohibition by indirect, unjust stratagems, treachery, or bribery of Servants, and even by force; of which instances often occur in this town.

“ No person, particularly a Clergyman, Physician, Surgeon, Apothecary, Officer of the Army or Navy, Magistrate, or Member of any public Department, or Office of the State, Court, or Commerce, &c. ought to be liable to the least  
momentary

viii INTRODUCTION.

the absolutely necessary Members of the State are secluded from doing their part, \* robbed of their time and their strength, and instead of becoming instrumental to the general good of Society, are at once obnoxious and burthenfome to it.

It is also no less *impolitic*, as tending to increase those Parish-rates, already so grievous a weight upon the community, that every man justly complains of them. But if the poor Manufacturer or Labourer, whose industrious hands provide his wife and numerous offspring neces-

mentary privation of liberty for debt, without three previous weekly citations or summonses, as in all other countries, and in our Courts of Conscience; nor even then in his own house, apartment, or shop, though the doors be open, that all ingress and egress may be entirely free, to carry on his necessary business, public or private, without interruption or danger; which may tend to the benefit of the community, or to the profit of the Debtor, consequently of the Creditor; for the latter suffers by the losses of the former."

\* See Note, page 21.

fary

## INTRODUCTION. ix

sary bread, is shut up in prison, and withheld from that industry, his wife and children unavoidably fall upon the Parish, and become a heavy incumbrance. \*

In many other views, the *ill-policy* of this proceeding might be shewn, but it deserves particular attention, as being a very pregnant source of those frequent and numerous Emigrations, which are so prejudicial to our country. The philanthropic writer, (before quoted,) observes, "That no nation produces so many Fugitives to foreign countries for Debt,

\* I remember being peculiarly struck with respect to this particular, by a poor man's appearing one evening at the Committee, to return thanks for his deliverance from Prison. We enquired after his family: He said he had a wife and *ten children* unprovided for, who were with him in town, whom he had supported, and had no doubt of supporting by his trade—that of a Brush-maker. We asked how his numerous family had been supported during his confinement. He replied, *entirely by the Parish!* What a burden! and in this single view, of how extensive utility is our Institution?

x INTRODUCTION.

as the English, owing to inexorable Creditors, and our laws of Arrest; which fugitives establish Manufactures abroad, to the national loss. The increase of Emigrants to Asia, Africa, and America, may be attributed to the same cause, where thousands go every year and depopulate this Island. The apprehensions of a sudden and long privation of liberty, without any previous summons, for the least debt above forty shillings, intimidate more, and cause more desertions of this kind out of the Kingdom than is generally imagined, and than would happen from the reasonable notice of previous citations, or from the short imprisonment of a few weeks."

But while the practice of imprisonment for small Debts is thus evidently *unjust* and *impolitic*, prejudicial in one view, and in another burdensome to Society; can one again conceive any thing more *inhuman*? I will not say *unchristian*, for the practice breathes nothing of that mild and gentle law of love.

Mr.

## INTRODUCTION. xi

Mr. CUMBERLAND has said, with no less truth than elegance, \* of the *Debtor*,

That ev'n the Murderer's ignominious fate  
Were welcome refuge from his hopeless state.

b 6

A poor

\* This ingenious and most humane Writer has put the case, in his admirable Epilogue, as strong as it can be put: An industrious Manufacturer, — deprived by sickness of his labour, — his family in consequence deprived of support, — running into debt to obtain it; and himself torn from them to languish in Prison, and consequently to leave them to charitable relief, while he is utterly deprived of all power to provide for them and pay his Creditor!

See the Epilogue, p. 65. while we cannot omit the following from an Epistolary Poem to Lord *North*, on the present mode of imprisonment for Debt.

“ Say then, my *Lord*, shall homicides atone  
The bloody action with the dying groan;  
Nor Parricides a greater ill sustain  
Than death, which soon relieves the Victim's  
pain?

The wretch with life exonerates the crime,  
The sentence soon, and his decree, in time;

The



xii INTRODUCTION.

A poor fellow-creature, perhaps for the immediate support of life, perhaps through sickness, unavoidable losses and disappointments, or—perhaps through indiscretion,—runs a few pounds in debt with his fellow-creature. He hath not to pay; he hath no means to pay, but such as arise from his personal industry, his manual labour. The Creditor will

The Robber's fate promiscuous chances doom,  
Branded or pillory'd, or exil'd from home;  
Calm, lenient sentence, that at once relieves  
The murderer's horrors, and remorse of thieves!  
All crimes but DEBT the hand of mercy spares,  
Nor suffer penance for successive years.  
Why lingers then the *Debtor's* hapless case,  
Who makes ATONEMENT, when he feels DIS-  
GRACE?

Why languish years, in close confinement hurl'd,  
Loit to himself, and banish'd from the world?  
Whose talents well employ'd wou'd surely give  
The means to pay, and decently to live;  
Or, timely foster'd by the Good and Great,  
Might rise distinguish'd, and adorn the State.  
Yet, strange reverse of sense, to shock the mind,  
The means of PAYMENT is to be CONFIN'D!"  
have

## INTRODUCTION. xiii

have no mercy! the wretched victim is seized, thrown into prison, totally incapacitated to relieve himself or do justice to others, and left to languish in doleful confinement, till death or some fortunate accident shall bring him a deliverance! What end can be answered by this? what good can be done? Every feeling of humanity reverts from the proceeding, and it will scarce be believed in this age and kingdom of philanthropy, that such cruelties may be, *are* exercised, from *man to man* even for the mean, the paltry sum of *eighteen-pence*; or that for *five shillings* a subject of Great Britain's happy constitution may languish amidst the cells and felons of *Newgate*!—Our Books attest the fact. \*

We

\* The person committed to the Gatehouse for *1s. 6d.* was a poor lame industrious creature who had not to pay; this miserable debtor was charged in Execution, and the expences of the prosecution increased the debt to *one pound five shillings and six-*

xiv INTRODUCTION.

We may go farther still, and, to the *injustice, ill policy, and inhumanity* of the proceeding, may add its *immorality* likewise. Since nothing is so likely to corrupt, nothing is found by experience so powerful to corrupt the morals, as a Gaol; into which, with whatever principles the unhappy debtor enters, compelled as he is to associate with the vilest and most profligate, those principles by degrees are relaxed, and he too soon catches and copies the manners of those with whom he is conversant. It is an old, but an indisputable truth, that *evil communications corrupt good manners*: and what the communications in a common prison are, who can doubt? So that by the inhuman

*expence!* If the man could not pay *one and sixpence*, how was he to discharge this accumulated debt? —The poor are frequently committed to Newgate by the Court of Conscience, for five or six shillings; and the process, fees, &c. commonly trebles the original debt: tho' it must be mentioned to the credit of Mr. Akerman's (the keeper's) humanity, that he never takes the whole of his dues. N.

practice

## INTRODUCTION. xv

practice of committing to prison an innocent man, a man not *guilty* but *unfortunate*, you cause him to incur the hazard of the greatest and most destructive of all losses, the loss of his integrity; and restore him, if restored, to society after a tedious continuance there, no longer an useful member, but one more of those evil Beasts and devouring animals, which in an human form prey upon men; and

—————escape who can,

When man's great foe assumes the shape of  
Man!

There is one evil consequence more of imprisonment for debt, which deserves to be particularly attended to; and that is the *infamy*, which in the general esteem is but too commonly attached to it. To have been in a Gaol, however unjustly, is with many narrow-minded persons a sufficient reproach;—and indeed, in the cruel opinion of the world in general, *criminality* is often at no great distance from *misfortunes*. This is the rather to be lamented

ed

## xvi INTRODUCTION.

ed in the case of those persons, who are the objects of our present consideration : for Reputation is generally with them, not only the main support of their credit, but the very source of their employment and daily bread. Take this away, or materially impugn it, and they will find it difficult, with all their industry and desire of doing well, to find persons willing to engage with them. “ The man is just “ come out of prison, or has lain there “ for some time,” is an observation sufficient to blast all his honest designs. Thus we have another proof of the baneful effects of the imprisonment complained of.

Why then is a practice so *unjust* and *impolitic* \*, so *inhuman* and *immoral*, so disgraceful

\* The writer before mentioned observes, that “ no person should be imprisoned for debt above a month, especially in a free commercial nation ; all confinement and inaction being essentially prejudicial to the community. Individuals ought to lose rather than the State.”

Lord



## INTRODUCTION. xvii

graceful to our laws and constitution, countenanced amongst us?—Is there no possibility to remedy or remove the evil? And with whom rests the power to achieve so great, so godlike a reformation?

“Lord *Bacon* writes, that no man could be arrested for debt in England, according to our constitution.”

“Sir *William Temple* observes, That detention for debt is greatly injurious to a nation, and wishes that no such law or custom existed in a land of Liberty, as England.”

“Lord Chancellor *Talbot* often declared, That the debtor sufficiently pays a debt of any sum by an imprisonment of three months, according to the principles of real humanity and good policy.”

The opinions of three such great men are so respectable and sufficient authorities, as to induce all humane and patriotic Legislators to propose and concur in a law conformable to their judicious sentiments. The immense number of prisoners for debt is not only a disgrace to the nation, Legislature, humanity, and laws, but also a considerable loss and prejudice of some hundred thousand pounds every year to the State and community, upon due calculations.”—See the Sermon, page 11.



xviii INTRODUCTION.

—I flatter myself, that, were this either a proper place or time, there would be no great difficulty to give a satisfactory reply to these questions, and to find an adequate remedy for these evils \*. But I would by no means presume to go further at present than to point out the mischief, and to suggest what has occurred to us, as a *Society*. In this capacity, the *benevolence* which hath given us being, certainly

\* See the papers in the Postscript. I cannot omit to mention in this place, that a poor prisoner or two have come under our cognizance, to whose other misfortunes *sickness* has been added ; and consequently an accumulation of debt and distress, from the necessary *physical* aid.---A charitable establishment from the city of London, or some of the great hospitals, for the relief and supply of unhappy patients in prison, would be most humane, and do them high honour. I have taken the liberty to mention it in conversation to some worthy persons ; and heartily wish the present *hint* may be noticed, so as to produce this necessary, salutary, and compassionate alleviation of the woes of fellow-creatures, sufficiently distressed by confinement !

calls

## INTRODUCTION. xix

calls upon us to declare the result of our experience. And, as our books continually lie open for the inspection of the public, and our meetings are equally open to all such gentlemen as wish to concur in the humane design; we are and shall be at all times ready to throw in such assistance, and to unite in any such efforts, as may be thought likely to forward a reformation in this branch of our laws.

It is not reasonable to conceive, that such reformation is impracticable; more impracticable in ours, than in any other country;†

† “Why shou’d this weed in Albion’s jocund plain  
Inglorious flourish, and its honours stain?  
No state or region this misfortune knows,  
*Here---here* alone the baneful poison grows!

\* \* \* \* \*

All states and regions in this rule agree,  
*Take all there is---but set the* DEBTOR FREE.  
ENGLAND alone the sad example stands,  
With *Liberty* resounding thro’ her lands.”

See *Epistle to Lord North*, the following Note  
Page 22. and the *Postscript*.

or

## xx INTRODUCTION.

or that *imprisonment must* still take place to secure the creditor, and give stability to property. For, without all question, the wisdom of Legislation can as easily provide for the mutual advantage of creditor and debtor, in smaller, as in greater concerns. And it seems to admit of no doubt, that, as matters at present are circumstanced, the creditor is not much more benefited by arrests and imprisonment than the debtor himself. Such, at least, is the case, if we may be allowed to judge by our experience; whence we are fully taught, that the end designed, or which alone ought to be designed, by the creditor (the recovery of his debt) is by no means obtained by the cruel method of confinement.

It will appear from a review of our books, that far the greater part of those whom we have delivered, have either paid, thro' our means, a *trifling composition* to their creditors; have been *superseded*; or have been set free for the payment of  
their

## INTRODUCTION. xxi

their *fees*, to their creditors' utter loss of the debt\*.

It is true, other reasons may, and it is to be feared, sometimes do influence the minds of creditors in the imprisonment of their unhappy debtors. Resentment, and a thirst of revenge may incite them to have recourse to this dreadful punish-

\* Our books will supply abundant proofs : but I cannot help just specifying a particular case, in confirmation of what is said above, and in page 7, &c. of the *ill-policy* of such proceeding ; and that is, of a young man, twenty-five years of age, with a wife and five young children, who had an employment in one of our public offices. He was arrested for several different sums, to the amount of a hundred pounds or more ; and, as he had nothing to pay, he remained *fifteen* months in prison, was deprived of his employment, and then all his actions were superseded by the Society for 6*£*. Thus the *creditors* lost their several debts, and paid their own attornies ! While the *debtor* lost fifteen months of the prime part of his life, and an employment, by which, with attention and industry, he might have been able in time to have paid his creditors, and to have supported his unfortunate wife and infants !

ment ;

## xxii INTRODUCTION.

ment; while they have no hopes of recovering their debt, they gratify at least a diabolic passion, by harrassing, in the severest manner an unfortunate fellow-creature! But while passions of this sort should at all times be discountenanced, and the power of gratifying them unquestionably never put into the hands of individuals by equitable laws; it is certain, not from fact only, but from the plainest deductions of reason, that the only just and allowable end of imprisonment for debt just before-mentioned, can never be answered by it\*. And surely,  
while

\* The Author of the Epistle before quoted hath very well expressed himself on this head:—

“Should you (my Lord) in life’s vast scene behold  
The anxious wretch, whose sole pursuit is gold,  
With knocking knees for venal farthings bawl,  
While from his purse the dropping guineas fall;  
Wou’d you not smile, and wonder what he  
meant,

And turn regardless of his strange complaint?  
So he, that on the hapless *debtor* preys,  
And seeks to torture by a thousand ways,

Refusing



## INTRODUCTION. xxiii

while we are tender of the creditor's property, we ought at the same time to be equally tender of the debtor's liberty; and to remember, as a counter-balance to the severity of *Justice* on one hand

Refusing every proffer of his store,  
In hopes confinement will afford him more;  
With equal frenzy shall his views pervade,  
And for the *substance* only grasp the *shade*.

From bondage say, what benefits arise?  
Tell, if you can, whom all acknowledge wise,  
For I——,  
From all the mixture that experience shews,  
In BONDAGE can't one BENEFIT disclose.  
But, shou'd you ask, what EVILS may accrue?  
THOUSANDS, my Lord, that are unknown to you:

\* \* \* \* \*

Immur'd till death, or, what is worse, till fame  
With poison'd breath pollutes the honest name,  
The hapless debtor is compell'd to share  
His weight of anguish, and his load of care:  
Here useful members of the state we see,  
At *home* in *exile*, and in *bonds* tho' FREE.

\* \* \* \* \*

Distress'd, deserted, torpid with surprize,  
To friend and foe the hapless man applies;

He

Refusing



xxiv INTRODUCTION.

hand, that *Mercy* should hold the scale on the other: as there are certainly hard and cruel Creditors, as well as deceitful and collusive Debtors.

If, however, the Creditor is advantaged in no respect by the practice, if the Debtor is most cruelly punished by it,—more cruelly than the most notorious malefactor,—it surely is time to provide some me-

He seeks relief, but seeks alas in vain!  
 None heed his plaints, or mitigate his pain.  
 The heartless creditor in vain he tries,  
 For still th' inexorable wretch denies;  
 Who feels in gold alone each worldly good,  
 And *Shylock* like will have his *bond* or *blood*!  
 Again he sues, and offers ALL his store,  
 But ALL will not suffice, there must be *more*!  
 That more than ALL if any can obtain,  
 Let those who know the paradox, explain!  
 By fools derided, and by knaves oppress'd,  
 The prey of villains, and of ALL the jest,  
 Depriv'd of fame, in expectation cross'd,  
 His heart desponding, and his fortunes lost,  
 By want declining, and by friends ensnar'd,  
 His hopes abortive, and his health impair'd,  
 LIFE only then remains the Plaintiff's prize;—  
*Grief* yields the tribute, and the debtor *dies*.

thod

## INTRODUCTION. xxv

thod better adapted to the interest of both, as well as the interest of society in general.

There are indeed a *set of men* in the community, much benefited by the present inhuman mode of Arrests and Imprisonment, and who certainly would exert their utmost efforts for its continuance. But they are of such a species, that it is to be hoped their consideration can never have much influence upon the thinking part of society; on that part of society, especially, to whom the unhappy Debtors must make their appeal; from whose justice and humanity they must expect redress. The enormous and scandalous fees, which *Jailors*\*, *Bailiffs*, and *Pettifoggers*, the meanest and most despicable retailers of

\* It might with justice be mentioned, as a considerable advantage derived from our Society, that it is a great check upon the conduct of Jailors, and a powerful means at once to awaken their humanity, and to render them more cautious of their proceedings towards their unhappy prisoners.

## xxvi INTRODUCTION.

the Law, derive from that source,—very blood-suckers as they are of the vitals of the indigent and miserable,

“Half-starv’d spiders, preying on half-starv’d flies,”——

are a reproach to our Courts of Justice, to our national equity. They are a heavy burden on the wretched, already sunk down and dying beneath their load of oppression and distress: and they call upon the wisdom and humanity of the worthy and exemplary Trustees of our laws to remove them.

We abound with many great, good, and truly respectable characters in this department of the state: *the vile Attorneys*, (would we could add with truth, *now an useless race*)—to whom I have just alluded, are certainly no reproach to that honourable profession, for they can scarcely be deemed of it. General reflections upon any profession are most illiberal; nor will the ill practices of one or two, or even many professors, justify indiscriminate reflections on the whole.

I think

## INTRODUCTION. xxvii

I think myself happy in an opportunity to declare, that in the course of my little life, I have met with as many liberal, worthy, and humane men in the profession of the Law, as in any other : and our books and practice abundantly prove to us, that gentlemen of consequence and character in that business are seldom, if ever concerned in those vexatious Suits, Arrests and Imprisonments which have come before us, and which originate commonly from another quarter. On that account I greatly flatter myself that the concurrence of *such* gentlemen will not be withheld from us : and, that as from their skill and practice they are best able, so their wisdom and humanity will lead them to investigate and apply an adequate remedy for the evil.

They cannot be engaged in a work more creditable to themselves, more advantageous to society, more humane and benevolent. And if they would be pleased to point out a proper method, there can be no question, that the justice and wisdom



## xxviii INTRODUCTION.

dom of Parliament will readily take it up, and adopt a plan at once highly salutary to the subject and honourable to the State. For as the laws of Arrests and Imprisonment for Debt now stand, they are, without all question, an extreme disgrace to our Constitution; since by means of them, actions not only the most unjust and injurious, but the most cruel and inhuman may be, and it is to be feared are daily practised. Nay, shocking to think! under the sanction of those laws, the innocent man who owes not a farthing, may be barbarously torn from his house and his family! Horrid punishment—before any proof of guilt or wrong is, or can be given;—punishment worse than on the vilest criminals, may be inflicted on him: for he may languish many months in doleful confinement without a possibility of redress: and at length, the infamous wretch who hath done him this wrong, may either be beyond the reach, or unworthy the hand of just retribution, while the innocent  
man



## INTRODUCTION. xxix

man hath endured the most afflicting, and perhaps the most ruinous consequences! \*

c 3

It

\* The Writer referred to, Page 6, &c. remarks, that several instances occur and can be cited of persons capable of making false Affidavits of Debts, who when they have procured a Writ, arrest and imprisonment of the pretended Debtor, decamp, or become insolvent; the poor prisoner must however remain in confinement many months, or two or three Terms before his release, and then can have no damages for the perjury or false imprisonment; no Writ should therefore be issued upon an Affidavit only, nor without the security of two substantial Housekeepers for the appearance of the Plaintiff at the trial, and for his payment of any costs, which will prevent many false oaths, and false imprisonments, to the ruin of numbers, and the destruction of families.

Such public and private national injuries from the caprice, revenge, malevolence, obstinacy, and even barbarity of Creditors, should be effectually obviated without delay.

Many nations have such humane, prudent laws, particularly France, Flanders, Switzerland, Holland, &c. where no person can be arrested for Debt without three previous Summonses, and  
even.

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It will scarcely be believed, that such laws exist ; that such powers are in the hands

even not then in his own house, apartment, or shop, though the doors be open, neither on Sundays or Holidays, from motives of Benevolence and Good Policy, of Religion and true Charity, that the public and private free exercise of moral and religious duties may not be obstructed by private civil causes ; but no day is excepted from arrests in England but Sunday, not even Christmas nor New-Year's Day, nor the most solemn Fast-days.

The present laws of arrests are enormous, absurd, unjust, irrational, and injurious to the Debtor, Creditor, and State, enriching only Pettifoggers, Bailiffs, and Jailors, the worst, meanest, most despicable, and detestable of men, but impoverishing the Subject in the most cruel manner. A new code of laws relative to arrests is then absolutely necessary, which may be consonant to Reason, Equity, Humanity, Policy, and to a free political Constitution.

No person can be arrested for debt, according to the laws of Scotland, without the least warning of an instant ; for the Debtor must have the notice of fifteen days, by a summons to some Court, and there have a fair hearing ; if the debt be just, a caption is granted, but if he is in arrest,

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hands of the malevolent, designing and  
worthless, in this kingdom so boasted of  
c 4 for

arrest, and pays or compromises the sum, he is immediately released, and cannot be detained a moment for the costs, which are always solely paid by the Creditor, to prevent malevolent and illegal processes; but if the Debtor be forced to go to prison, he may inform his Creditor, by a Public Notary, of his intention to take the benefit of the Queen's Act for Insolvent Debtors, and after an imprisonment of eight days, he goes before a magistrate, and makes a cession of all his effects, upon oath, which instantly releases him, unless a revengeful Creditor will *aliment* him, which must be done that very hour, and the magistrate is empowered to compel the inexorable Creditor to give the allowance of *aliment* every day, according to the birth, station, or family of the prisoner during his imprisonment, at six, twelve, or eighteen-pence a day.

The salutary effects of these laudable measures prevent vexatious arrests and long imprisonments, to the ruin of the subjects, and to the detriment of the State.

The important Act of *Habeas Corpus* wants many additional amendments. The fees and expences to transfer a man from one prison to another, are now exorbitant and grievous to a poor  
Prisoner,

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for its laws and its liberty! Such laws let us hope will not long exist, and happy shall I think myself, happy will be the hour, that gave being to our Society, if any thing we have done or said can, though in the lowest degree, lead to

Prisoner for debt, and should be reduced to a guinea, or rather much less, even to a few shillings, without requiring him to go before a Judge for the transfer, which often causes very expensive and ruinous delays, by the absence of the Judges from London in summer, and during the assizes. An office should be constantly open for that purpose, and a proper person appointed, with a good salary, and enjoined to regular attendance, either in person, or by a Deputy, in London.

No civil outlawry should be granted without three weekly previous summonses from the Plaintiff to the Defendant in person, if the latter is in the Dominions, and the last summons ought to be made particularly before two credible and reputable witnesses, to verify it by affidavit from the Plaintiff and them, that the Defendant had received it in due form, to prevent any clandestine means in obtaining the Outlawry without his knowledge by surreptitious notices, too often practised at present by false assertions and oaths. P.

abolish

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abolish this cruel defect, this *unjust, impolitic, inhuman, immoral* † practice, this vile opprobrium of our State.

Till, however, this desirable and happy end shall be accomplished, we have thought proper to lay before the public a state of our Charity, the rules by which we proceed ‡, and the methods we

c 5, take

† The Author of the “Memoirs of the Year *two thousand five hundred*, observes in his strong manner, “ Yes, Magistrates, it is your ignorance, your idleness, and precipitation, which cause despair among the poor; you imprison a man for a mere trifle, and place him by the side of a miscreant: you corrupt, you poison his mind, and then leave him forgot, amidst a herd of abandoned wretches; but he does not forget your injustice: as you observe no proportion between the crime and the punishment, he imitates your example, and all things become equal to him. Vol. I. p. 51. see also p. 5. foregoing.

‡ To make this little Book as complete as we can, and in some degree entertaining as well as improving to our Readers, we have not only printed the *Sermon*, from which the design originated;—the *Rules of the Society*,—the *Exhortation*



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take, in our humble way, to counterwork this capital defect, and to oppose some of its pernicious and malignant consequences. The success and approbation which have hitherto attended our endeavours, abundantly attest the utility and humanity of our plan, and the public sense of it. Disinterested in our views, and desirous of imparting consolation and relief to the unhappy, of whatever country, of whatever persuasion;—for to be men, and imprisoned, fellow-creatures and wanting relief is a sufficient claim on our benevolence †,—We shall proceed with all imaginable alacrity; and have no doubt, that as the exigencies of the distressed shall demand, the benevolence of the Public will reach out a sufficient

to the persons delivered,—the *List* of Subscribers, —and the *Forms* of our general business; but two or three pieces of *Poetry*, which, we hope, will not be unacceptable or improper, as the first ODE in particular, being set to music, is designed for performance on future occasions, and may therefore be welcome to such as shall attend to hear it.

† See note, p. 4.

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ficient supply \*. We observe with pleasure, that no charitable institution hath met with a more heart-felt and universal

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\* In a Pamphlet before me, intituled "the Extraordinary Case of William Penrice," we are informed of several legacies for the relief of Prisoners, which the Author insinuates, are not applied to the purposes for which they were bequeathed, and concerning which, it would be a matter of great humanity for those to enquire who are properly skilled or authorized to do so, as they might be applied to the best end. Penrice says, there are a greater number of legacies not yet discovered, than those specified in the following list.

1st. The legacy of Mr. Henry Brown, late linen draper in the Borough of Southwark, of 50*l. per ann.* as may appear by the donor's will in Doctor's Commons.

2. The legacy of Mr. James Dodd of 30*l. per ann.* to be paid out of a farm at Hartly-row, near Hertford Bridge, in the county of Southampton; some years past in the occupation of Mr. Cile, who lived on the said farm.

3. The legacy of Arthur Child, of the county of Hertford, Esq; of 24*l. per ann.* to be paid out of 220*l. per ann.* lying in the parish of Stephenage  
in

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concurrence; no objections worthy the least notice have been urged against it; indeed, it seems liable to none, or very inconsiderable objections † of any sort:

But

in the said county. This legacy was left in the year 1669.

4. The legacy of Mr. Sam. West, citizen of London, of 16*l. per ann.* to be paid out of a ground rent arising from several houses in Coleman-street, London.

5. The legacy of Mr. John Hill, of Charlton in the county of Kent, of 12*l. per ann.* to be paid out of an estate at Charlton aforesaid; some years past in the occupation of Sir William Longham. This legacy was left in the year 1654.

6. The legacy of the family of the Lushingtons of 11*l. 13s. 4d. per ann.* as may appear by the donor's will in Doctor's Commons.

7. The legacy of Robert Henley, Esq; of 10*l. per ann.* payable by the possessors of an estate lying near the church at Harrow on the Hill, in the county of Hertford, which estate is now, or was late, in the family of the Walldoes.

The foregoing legacies amount to 153*l. 12s. 4d. per ann.* and have not been paid to the poor prisoners for many years past.

† A benevolent writer hath touched upon the only one I have heard.——“ Amidst the large  
number

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But what of human works, of men, or things is, or can be free from all possibility

number of objects (says he) discharged by the liberality of the Public, thro' the interposition of the Charity in question, it may probably be suggested, "that some of them are of an inferior merit, of dubious characters, and the quality of whose claim for pity and relief cannot perhaps be easily ascertained." This I know (for I have heard it) has been urged by some persons as an argument, not only against the Thatched-House Society, but against many other benevolent and very laudable establishments in Great-Britain: But I cannot think that such insinuations should be dignified by the name of argument. Surely they are the hasty effusions of little thought, of less feeling, and totally unwarranted by the spirit of pure religion.

It is no uncommon thing for those who are at ease in Zion, and fatten in Goshen, to forget, or fail to grieve at, the afflictions of Joseph. Let me give the idea in far better language than my own, by an extract from my favourite Bard, who warmly and with a pathetic indignation exclaims,

" Ah little think the gay, licentious, proud,  
Whom pleasure, power, and affluence surround:  
Ah little think they, while they dance along,  
How

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lity of objection?—It speaks to the heart,  
——it addresses every man's sensibility,  
and

How many pine in want and dungeon glooms ;  
Shut from the common air and common use  
Of their own limbs ! How many drink the cup  
Of baleful grief, or eat the bitter bread  
Of misery !---For sure th' awakening thought  
The conscious heart of Charity would warm,  
And her wide wish benevolence dilate !  
The social tear would rise, the social sigh,  
The social passions work !”

’Tis no less an honour to our nature than a sweet  
cordial to every sympathetic breast to observe how  
deeply considerations like these have already in-  
fluenced numbers of liberal benefactors in behalf  
of the unhappy prisoners. May their numerous  
list be largely increased for the comfort of many a  
poor helpless fellow-creature, whose real suffer-  
ings none can adequately feel, but such as are eye-  
witnesses of their melancholy situation !

“ Can I forget the generous band,  
Who, touch’d with human woe, redressive search’d  
Into the horrors of the gloomy goal ?  
Unpitied and unheard, where misery moans ;  
Where sickness pines, where thirst and hunger  
burn,  
And poor misfortune feels the lash of vice.”

*See THOMPSON’S Winter,*



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and every man's reason. Humanity and Justice equally plead for it†: And, in  
con-

† Such is the language of an humane writer in one of the public prints, recommending our Charity.—“Men resemble the Deity in nothing so much as in doing good to their fellow-creatures,” says a learned Heathen. Christians and Englishmen readily feel and allow the energy and truth of this benign sentence. Of all sufferers, the prisoner and his hapless family, perhaps, experience the most severe and complicated distress. Separation from domestic society, and its comforts; unavoidable neglect of a deserted offspring, disease of body, anguish of mind, disappointment in temporal views, prejudice of morals, and infamy in the world's too general esteem, are but some of the many obvious calamities incident to imprisonment. In the former part of life I well remember to have seen an honest man, with six or seven little wretched dependants upon him for bread, rendered utterly destitute, and himself languishing under the hourly horrors of a gaol! What was this miserable creature himself to do in circumstances like these? What power or opportunity could the poor woman, his widow'd wife, obtain to make a necessary provision for her fatherless and half-famished brood? Or what moral  
my

## xI INTRODUCTION.

consequence we see, that its proposal not only met with an instantaneous and liberal encouragement in the Metropolis, but is likely to extend itself throughout the kingdom. For, in several of our principal towns and cities, similar institutions are already established.

care or attention could they, pitiable infants! enjoy amidst the soul-harrowing distractions of maternal anguish? I never could think of this scene without pain; and as well do I recollect how the horrid scene was changed, when, by the interposition of an humane fellow-creature, this wretched father was released from prison, restored to his wife, his offspring again placed under his parental eye, and himself, through the interest of his friend, reinstated in the wonted labours of his handicraft employ. For, alas! full often it requires interest to procure employment for the man recently enlarged from a gaol, which, to many worthy minds, carries with it the idea of something ignominious and unsafe. "Surely, thought I, on so pleasing a view, one sigh for the distressed is the glory and happiness of human nature!—It is humanity—it is the Deity himself breathing in the bosom of his creatures!" B.

For

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For my own part, I cannot but rejoice in the happy event; and, as no man can deprive me of that joy, so no man of feeling can doubt its warmth and sincerity!—It is indeed *almost* a sufficient counterbalance to the many cruel slanders, false and wicked calumnies, injurious and unmerciful persecutions, I have met with from the envy and malice, the cruelty and severity of my fellow-creatures!—It would be an *entire* counterbalance, did not my mind feel a peculiar and pungent uneasiness, with respect to others, on the reflection, that a life spent—most sincerely spent with a continual view to the good of mankind,—should produce so unkind, so hard a return from them! For I can say, with the strictest truth, and appeal for that truth to the Searcher of all hearts, and the dread Judge of all actions,—that my first wish and pursuit, thro' life, has been the spiritual and temporal good of my fellow-creatures; and the highest,  
dearest

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dearest gratification of my soul—the communication of that good !

For more than *three and twenty years* I have lived in a *public* endeavour to communicate that good—and it has pleased the gracious disposer of all blessings amply to crown my wishes, and to make me instrumental in that most delightful of all services. I might have hoped—it was the vain thought of my mind—to have passed thro' life, at least with peace, if not with applause. But, alas ! it hath happened to me far otherwise ! and may the wisdom of Providence be blest and adored ! May that Providence support and enable me, thro' the kindness and humanity of my worthy friends, still to go on ! And tho' I may in some measure say, with our great EXEMPLAR, and I hope without presumption, *Many good works have I done, for which of these do ye stone me ?*—tho' I have met with abuse and scandal for my best efforts ; calumny and falshood for my sincerest

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sincereſt labours; perſecution and puniſhment for actions where I am unconſcious of the leaſt blame or wrong: tho' I have never received from Society, from the higheſt or the loweſt, the flighteſt temporal advancement; tho' I have been treated, amidſt the moſt zealous diſcharge of my duty to God, of loyalty to my King, of good-will to mankind, with as little mercy, as if I had been the verieſt peſt and nuisance of ſociety: Yet have I no doubt, that the great God, the avenger of the innocent, will one day take my cauſe in hand! And, aſſiſted by his grace, ſupported by the teſtimony of my conſcience, protected and favoured by my many kind and ſympathetic friends—to whom I am for ever indebted!—and, conſcious of an upright, ſingle intention to diſcuſe happineſs—I will maintain my chearfulneſs, my application: I will purſue my purpoſes: I will not reſt in the work of *Philanthropy*! I will go on; and moſt firmly truſt, that I ſhall be made inſtrumental



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mental to offer yet to my country "ONE  
OTHER PLAN OF PUBLIC UTILITY," which  
I have no doubt they will approve, and  
encourage no less than the MAGDALEN,  
and the SOCIETY FOR DEBTORS.

*Queen-Street,*  
*Feb. 28, 1774.*

WILLIAM DODD.

P O S T S C R I P T.

SINCE the preceding Introduction was written, a series of letters, printed in the *Public Ledger*, have been put into my hands. The judicious writer has enlarged on many subjects, upon which my purpose led me only to glance: I have, therefore subjoined some extracts from them; and, tho' it is much to be wished, that his manner had been in some respects less acrimonious, yet every man will unite with me to commend his laudable endeavours in the humane cause.

He proposes to treat of,

- I. The *Punishment* of the Debtor,
- II. The *Recovery* of the Debt,
- III. The *Revenge* of the Plaintiff; and
- IV. The *Advantages* arising to the Courts of Justice, &c.

Concerning the 1st — The PUNISHMENT of the Debtor, He observes — That *Debtors* may be distinguished into two classes; he who becomes so from *collusion*; and he who becomes so from *casualty* or *misfortune*."

If

If any one can commit an action to deserve perpetual imprisonment, it is the *collusive* debtor. Yet, strange as it may appear, his knavery and duplicity, which ought to bring down the severest censure of our laws, serve but the stronger to fortify him against their malignancy; and he who deserves their punishment in the greatest extent, in reality the least sustains it: for imprisonment, to a man of this disposition, becomes the very goal or ultimate of his intentions, whose machinations and plots, to accomplish his seeming destruction, have perhaps been agitated many months, previous to his apparent misfortune; who, with only the externals of insolvency, suffers an attachment on his person, and chearfully surrenders himself to those chains he has so long been artfully forging, with a purse flowing as his spirits. Want, the companion of the wretched, in vain assails him: Plenty decks his table, and jocund mirth dilates the laughing hours; while the overflowing cup animates the Cytherean companions of his night! The idea, that imprisonment can be a punishment to a man under these circumstances, must instantly vanish; for he prepares for his catastrophe with the vizard of distress, but latently smiles at the approach of danger; while his property is conveyed by previous assignments, apparent gifts, spurious loans; and with the externals of poverty, he possesses a genial fortune, fabricated on the ruin of the credulous,

lous, honest, and unsuspecting dealer. On these may the laws shed their keenest powers ! But, alas ! the effort will be vain : the premeditated shield protects him, and he lives invulnerable to the assaults of the most skilful. Such is the *collusive debtor*, whose punishment may be said to produce an effect retrograde to its very intent, benefitting those it is intended to correct.

These facts, being truths incontrovertible, demonstrate that imprisonment can be no punishment to the *collusive Debtor* ; and therefore the intent of the prosecution becomes nugatory : for he who has no character to lose, no honour to be injured, nor any conscience to be wounded, stands rubricate to the attacks of mankind, and laughs at their feeble efforts.

But the *Debtor* from *misfortune* is a character of a different tint ; the very outlines of whose misery it is difficult to imagine ! and whose real sufferings it is impossible to describe ! Eager in the pursuit of honour, tenacious of reputation, and solicitous for the good opinion of the world, he labours through life with the greatest avidity, and the most honest industry ; his wife, his children, and his reputation flourish around him, and bask in the sunshine of his prosperity : When, amidst this apparent security, perhaps the villainy or prejudice of his neighbours may blast his reputation ; a loss may be sustained by fire ; his credit may have been given too largely ; his engagements

ments may have been too extensive, or his losses sudden and considerable: From all, or any of these motives, his payments may not have been so regular and certain as customary; the consequence of which is perhaps an immediate arrest, and the unhappy man (who often suffers more from the ignominy and subversion of his fortune, than the creditor from the loss of his money) is in a moment dragged from his weeping wife and family, from his friends and from his dwelling; and, unable to pay sufficient to satisfy his creditors, his property is confiscated; his wife, his children, from affluence and gentility, are turned into the world in a state of poverty and misery!

It is in vain for a man in these circumstances to represent the honesty of his intentions. His ability to pay twenty shillings in the pound is fled, and with it every social virtue: Such, at least, is the opinion of the successful part of mankind. Misfortune creates the metamorphosis, and the transition is instantaneous; he, who before had honour and punctuality, whose reputation was unblemished, whose industry was commended, whose gentility and courtesy were respected, and whose religion and morals were quoted as examples to his neighbours, in a moment becomes divested of all. His honour becomes pride; his reputation is thought duplicity; his industry is interpreted cunning; his gentility is represented as extravagance, and his religion misconstrued  
hypocrisy;



hypocrisy: Himself and family are ruined, his credit is lost, his virtue contaminated, every comfort of life is denied; and, to compleat the catastrophe, the unhappy man, with a principle excited by inclination, but retarded by inability, is condemned to Imprisonment, and to the suffering of its greatest rigours.

II. Concerning the second consequence of imprisonment, viz. the *Recovery of the Debt*, it is observed, that though this is truly essential, and the general pursuit of the plaintiff; yet it destroys itself by the very means that are attempted to accomplish it, (*i. e.*) by confinement. "Various are the reasons which may be produced in proof of the assertion, but the following are perhaps the most eligible to consideration. When one person arrests another, he is supposed to do it with an intent of obtaining his debt, and therefore the money is expected, or a temporary and additional security by bail; on the failure of which, imprisonment generally follows, and if the first offers of a compromise are refused, the debtor has never an opportunity again of repeating them, because, from confinement, a decrease or abatement of property becomes certain. For the expences arising to a debtor on his path to, and when in confinement, are very great; and the inconsiderate plaintiff seldom gives himself time to reflect, that it is the property of himself and others, which is by these means hourly diminish-

ing. But, already precipitated in the stream, he plunges on to the destruction of the debtor, and the certain loss of his debt; seldom cooling to judge of the consequences, 'till his attention is awakened by a long bill from his attorney for the payment of the incidental charges. In the mean time the defendant finding the plaintiff inexorable, speedily converts every part of *his* substance into money, to support him while in confinement, and is thereby consuming that property which, if timely taken, might have afforded a decent dividend. Thus both become injured by the very means of which they attempt to avail themselves; and it may thence be inferred, that so far from a prison leading to the recovery of the debt, it becomes the very *Maelstrom* of the debtor's remaining property, which is presently ingulphed, and totally lost in the *vortex*.

It may be observed, that, "should any of the debtor's effects appear after he is imprisoned, and rendered in execution, the plaintiff can certainly avail himself by a *feri facias*." This is admitted, but it may be necessary at the same time to know that it cannot be issued until a *discharge* of the imprisoned person is first obtained.

Therefore, confining the body to obtain a recovery of the debt, becomes perfectly nugatory, and in the very natural reason of things absurd; because, as no property is attainable while the body is confined, consequently confinement does away the recovery. If property, therefore, is the pursuit

purſuit of the plaintiff, ſhould it not be expected that he would originally proceed againſt it, without attaching the body?

It is true, ſhould there not be ſufficient effects to diſcharge the demand of the plaintiff, the body becomes afterwards answerable for the deficiency. But, as that body is ſuppoſed to be then in a ſtate of actual inſolvency, it becomes a caption, or a mere *corpus mortuum*; and can only ſerve to gratify the wantonneſs or malice of the plaintiff, which ſometimes is a greater inducement to an arreſt, than the deſire of recovering the debt.

This truly ſavage diſpoſition is too obvious in this, and in many other inſtances relating to debt; but in none more ſo, than in the arreſting a *dead body*! 'Tis with regret I obſerve, that this diſpoſition ſtill prevails in the minds of ſome, who have that implacable ferocity, that they would attack the ſoul, and deprive it of its immortality, was there a poſſibility of recovering the mammon of this world by the proceeding.—But I will draw a veil over this picture, too horrid for the idea of religion, morality, or humanity.

The *Recovery of the Debt* becomes alſo frequently void by the Creditor's not perfectly underſtanding the conſequences of an arreſt; who generally imagines that the expences finiſh with the writ, &c. as the attorney, for the moſt part, is unwilling to intimidate him with an account of *Declarations, Notices, Issues, Judgment, and Execution*;

*cution*; which must all have a regular proceeding; for, on the least lapse or default, the debtor becomes discharged by *Superfedeas*, and the costs fall on the plaintiff, which are generally very considerable, and greatly add to the original debt. Numbers are *thus* discharged from imprisonment every term; the inability of proceeding, or dread of further expence, in the plaintiff, often determines him to lose the debt, rather than add to it by proceeding to execution.

The recovery of debt may also at any time be rendered void (should the debtor be of a dishonest principle, and possessed of a moderate portion of money) by bailing out the action before he is in execution: This is frequently done, and in consequence thereof the debtor's person becomes immediately at liberty; which may find a secure asylum beyond the seas 'till it is convenient and safe to return. It is true, the plaintiff, in this instance, has recourse to the bail; but it is seldom attended with success, as every term in Westminster-hall evinces; for the persons, who engage in these precarious securities, are sensible of their risque, and are therefore prepared against every attack, and so perfectly acquainted with every chicanery, that they generally tire the most expert and determined.

From the several instances before-mentioned, the *recovery of the debt* must appear totally annihilated, or at least removed so far from the point of view,



view, as to be scarce perceptible; it is evidently the essential pursuit of the plaintiff, and yet is rarely, if ever, accomplished. Imprisonment for debt, therefore, on its present foundation, is irrational and inconsistent; the very intent, or effect, being perfectly destroyed in the attempt; it is wantoning with the distresses of each other, with no other gratification than that of revenge; it is proceeding against the unfortunate with a severity which the barbarity of savages would shrink at, and with a cruelty that humanity and civil policy must blush to acknowledge: It is DOMITIAN CATCHING FLIES."

III. Concerning the 3d—the *Revenge of the Plaintiff*, this writer observes, that "The *execution* or *remission* of punishment is totally in the creditor's power, and he becomes a despotic monarch, from whose determination there is no *appeal*, and whose arbitrary egotism nothing can remove, but the unanimous concurrence of the whole kingdom.

"There is, perhaps, no nation in the universe (at least I hope so for the honour of its legislators) that permits such an authority to be exercised by one subject over the liberty and property of another. It may indeed be objected, that "Bail will prevent an immediate exertion of the power;" but, strange as it may appear, it is a fact, that many persons, in apparent flourishing circumstances, cannot procure it; and then, on the mere



oath of the plaintiff, the debtor is committed close prisoner to a jail : and, should it happen at the end of that term, which is previous to what the lawyers call their *long vacation*, he may then remain in this confinement six or eight months, without a possibility of enlargement, or in any manner determining the pretensions of the plaintiff; and at the expiration of this time, should they be found *specious*, the debtor has no redress, but what is to be procured by a long and expensive law-suit, which his imprisonment has, perhaps, rendered him totally incapable of pursuing.

Could we be sufficiently intimate with the miseries of our fellow-creatures from this cause, to reflect on all the very dreadful consequences of this power, which is given to one subject to exercise over another; to what scenes of iniquity and oppression would it not lead the mind? as it would be found to tend to the encouragement of every vice, and the subversion of religion and morality.

It may be argued, that the intent of this mode of proceeding was, and still may be, “to provide for the welfare and security of the subject; to check public fraud;” and “to secure the property of the individual.” Those who draw conclusions from external objects only, may rest satisfied with such an allegation in defence of the proceedings; but the judicious and penetrating, who look beneath the veil, will quickly discover such dark, iniquitous, and oppressive fabrications, as  
would

would dishonour the most inhospitable and savage nations. The establishment of this arbitrary custom may not be improperly compared to that of the HOLY BROTHERHOOD, who have authorised a court for the protection of Christianity, which they support by the very violation of those precepts they have sworn to defend.

Should a man, from resentment or worldly advantage, be induced to commit *Murder*, the present mode of imprisonment for debt securely points him out the path: for, on his *single oath*, he has it in his power to take out a writ, and confine the body of another, although he shall not be indebted to him, nor perhaps ever has been. Yet, as the punishment precedes the conviction of the crime, the victim may, perhaps, suffer seven or eight months imprisonment before the propriety of the proceeding is determined: during which time the man may become ruined in his reputation, and his real creditors, (governed, perhaps, by that common, but mistaken maxim, “*That the unfortunate are always in the wrong,*”) may lodge detainers against him for sums, which it may then not be in his power to discharge; when if the misery of his condition does not work upon him to destroy himself, or perish by a broken heart, he may securely be removed by medicine. For, notwithstanding the Jurors are obliged to sit on the body, the inquisition on a man who dies in confinement, (and therefore, for the most part,

forfaken by his friends) carries with it more the *form* of law, than the *execution* ! Particular as this representation must appear, yet these things *may be* ; it would, perhaps, not be difficult to shew that *they have been*.

“ Is a man inclined to deprive another of his wife, to debauch his daughter, to corrupt his niece, or run away with his ward ? An attachment of the body of their protector, strikes out the path to lead to the accomplishment ; there is nothing that wealth cannot attain, nor the hand of power accomplish, supported by the custom of arrest. Nor is there any vice, however flagrant, any oppression, however iniquitous, but what can be perpetrated by the combination of wicked men, and the present mode of imprisonment for debt.”

Such are the consequences which may and do follow the resentment or revenge of the plaintiff.

IV. Concerning the 4th, the *advantages* to the *Courts*, it is observed, that, “ If the custom of *arrest* cannot be abolished, nor imprisonment for debt removed : Both with propriety, at least, may be laid under such regulations, as shall be so reconcileable to prudence, and adequate to justice, that, while the confinement of the debtor is rendered easy and consistent, the claim of the creditor shall become more secure.

“ The *first* particular observation, which may be necessary in regard to arrests is, “ that all charges,

charges attending an arrest, and its consequences, shall fall on the plaintiff." This regulation will, in the first instance, prevent a number of villainous and vexatious Writs; nor will a man be obliged to lie many months in prison *only for his fees*, when he becomes discharged by supersedeas on the discontinuance of an action. This is so general a case, and thought so worthy commiseration, that it has awakened the attention of the humane and benevolent, who have formed themselves into a SOCIETY AT THE THATCH'D HOUSE TAVERN, for the relief of such as may remain in this truly deplorable situation; for a debtor may frequently, from various causes, be relieved from the debt, and not have the power to pay cost or fees: whereas, did they fall on the plaintiff, the debtor would in consequence become instantly discharged, whenever this action became supersedeable.

"Another Instance may be urged, to enforce the necessity of such a regulation. A man is often arrested from malice or caprice, without being applied to for the debt, and often without any account rendered; because the plaintiff, in the present instance, is sure not to suffer for his wantonness (unless it is carried to issue, which may not often be the case) and the costs consequently fall on the debtor, which, on the present fashionable mode of Caption, by what the lawyers term a *special original*, often exceeds the debt. On the contrary, was the plaintiff eligible to



to the incurred expence, it would, in a great part, or perhaps totally put a period to such abuses, as he would never proceed to an arrest, without a positive probability of recovering the money."

The second regulation proposed is, "To abolish the abuse of searching the office, which is a practice of the most alarming kind, and particularly demands redress." A man shall be arrested in either of the four counties, at any distance from the metropolis, and although the money shall be paid in discharge of the debts and costs, together with every attending expence, yet shall this man be held in custody, and perhaps forced to London, under pretence that "the office must be searched" before he can be discharged, to know if any other writs are against him, from a received opinion that the Sheriff is answerable for every writ that is against the debtor: But this is notoriously nothing more than trifling with the misfortunes of mankind, to augment the fees of office; for, if custom, as well as law, is founded on reason, it must declare, that the *Sheriff* is sufficiently exonerated by making a return to the real caption, without being expected to answer for those with which *he* is not actually charged. This is so flagrant an imposition, and such an abuse of office, as cannot long escape that regulation it demands. It may not, perhaps, be improper to observe, that in France "no second charge can  
be



be lodged against the body, 'till it is free from the first."

A third regulation is, " the preventing any arrest being served in a man's dwelling : " It has been, and still continues to be a received opinion, that a man's house is his castle, where he is supposed to remain free from insult ; but it continues only as a received opinion, since it is seldom found any impediment to an attachment on the person of the possessor, although the custom of arrest has indirectly admitted this privilege, of not allowing the open violence of breaking of doors to attach the prisoner supposing the debtor to be in a kind of sanctuary, while he is in his own dwelling ; but at the same time it authorises the officer to steal upon him like a thief in the night, and under false pretences to engage his appearance, and then forcibly drag him from his family and dwelling."

The writer adds to these particulars the following *Plan to remove the Evil* complained of.

V. *First*. The debtor, on confinement, shall be regularly proceeded against (without any *abatement* or *elapse* of term) until he is in execution ; or in default of such proceeding, may sue out his supersedeas, as is the present practice of the Courts.

*Secondly*, When the debtor is in execution, his effects shall be surrendered upon oath, and divided amongst his creditors ; but in consequence of  
such

such surrender, the body shall be discharged, and the debtor freed from all future demands, in the same manner as a certificated bankrupt.

*Thirdly*, If four fifths of the creditors in number, and four-fifths in value, shall at any time, while the debtor is at large, demand an inspection of his affairs, it shall be deemed as an act of the whole body; and the debtor shall be obliged to submit to such inspection; and the said creditors have it in their power to conclude such terms as shall seem to them most eligible, and which shall be binding to the remaining creditors.

*Fourthly*, No sale, assignment, nor conveyance of any kind, made by the debtor, after the writ has been served twenty-four hours, shall be binding; but all his effects shall then be considered as directly, and to every intent, the property of his creditors.

*Fifthly*, As the above article makes the debtor speedily an insolvent, and his effects become the property of the creditors, one shilling per day shall be paid the debtor from the day of his imprisonment to the day of his discharge; which money shall be paid out of the debtor's effects (if any), but otherwise at the expence of the plaintiff, or, in default thereof, the debtor shall be discharged.

And expatiating afterwards on the subject—he has the following strong and just observations:

VI. House-

VI. Housekeepers of a certain rank and standing, and all Freeholders, should be exempt from personal attachment. The state of primitive Greece, and that of infant Rome, allowed honours, immunities, and exemptions to such of their citizens as were married. Age and connubity had always the seats of honour in the assemblies of the Lacedemonians; and such would, doubtless, have been exempted from arrests, had the custom existed among them; but, barbarian and pagan as they were, they had too much policy and humanity to admit it. In the province of Jamaica, the land of abject slavery, no Freeholder can have a personal attachment served upon him, nor is any *capias* permitted to issue against him, the proceedings being always against his property, which *only* becomes liable. In Hoiland, and in France, the debtor is no longer held, than whilst he can make a surrender of his effects, which is considered as an exoneration, and the body is free: Scotland, in the year 1754, to the honour of its administration, rejected the imprisonment of the body, as a spurious production, unknown to the mother law; nor, indeed, is any thing more inconsistent to common sense, humanity, law, justice, equity, policy, credit, trade, and the honour of our kingdom; and was the custom even authorized by the laws, (which it really is not but on the contrary is heterogeneous to them and the constitution) it ought to be struck out of the  
general

general code, as a remnant of barbarism already exploded by all the polite and commercial states in the world, and permitted only to remain in the (otherwise) envied clime of Albion."

Again he remarks, that "another fatal and alarming effect frequently arising from a long and tedious imprisonment, from which the unfortunate debtor is perhaps at length relieved by an act of insolvency, is, That, during confinement, his friends, tired with repeated applications, desert him; his connections, from long captivity are lost, and a mind unsupported by philosophy and religion, is often vitiated by connection; and when the prison doors become open for enlargement, the captive in a manner stands alone, like Adam, in a state of nudity, but *without his innocence*. Should, however, his disposition lead him to labour, to whom shall he apply for employment? Friendless, forlorn, and unrecommended, the thriving world disclaim him; yet his necessities urge, and famine assails him. To relieve his wants, he has at last recourse to illicit practices; and thus, reluctantly, becomes the companion of thieves, and midnight depredators. Hence is augmented the Recorder's list; and Tyburn groans with the weight of the wretched malefactor! Hence our assizes are replete with felons; and our counties with executions."

The writer having also enlarged on the persons, who are *exempt from arrests*, (some, as he observes, improper



improper and unworthy enough of such exemption) goes on to remark, that " Could nothing more be advanced on the impropriety and evil tendency of personal attachment, than the several provisions before mentioned, which have been thus cautiously made against it, for the security of the principal persons in the kingdom and their dependents : that alone must be sufficient to evince its oppression ; and be, at the same time, the strongest proof of its partiality ; as it is extended against a certain part of the subjects only, and against that very part which contributes to give food and raiment to those, who by especial protections are exempt from payment ; thereby dividing the people into two distinct classes ; viz. " the rich and ennobled, &c." and " the laborious and indigent." Permitting the drones to thrive and wander unmolested, whilst the industrious bee, who fabricates the honey, is destroyed ; it is aiming at the vitals of commerce, that luxury may thrive ; forgetting that an abatement of the one is a certain reduction of the other."

" We are informed, that the present king of Sweden, in the month of October last (1773) issued a proclamation, that " For the future no " person should be detained in custody, who gave " up his *All* to satisfy his just debts ; and the " schedules of assets, stock in trade, rent-rolls of " estates, and securities for money, shall be lodged with the committee of the corporation in each " borough ;



“berough ; whose syndic, or town-clerk, is to  
“examine debtors on oath, in presence of a notary,  
“who must attest their discoveries, taken in writ-  
“ing, and signed by themselves ; after which  
“the debtor is to be discharged. Those who  
“shall refuse to submit to such examinations, or  
“endeavour to escape, in a clandestine manner,  
“are to be sent to the gallies for life ; and on  
“falsifying in their accounts, to suffer death as  
“felons.”

“This edict is a proof of the humanity of the  
king of Sweden, and a plain indication that, of  
the few nations who permit any remains of this  
barbarous custom, the Swedes are proceeding to a  
total extirpation of it. Let not our kingdom,  
then, which gives the lead in arts and arms, be  
the last to extirpate a procedure so destructive and  
oppressive to the subject, so contrary to the rights  
of nature, and so opposite to the law and constitu-  
tion of England.”

In his XIth Letter he observes, “Many are the  
examples (at this time) of Debtors, who from re-  
sentment of the injuries they may have received  
by arrests, which in some instances are irre-  
parable, resolve to live in prison to spend those  
effects the Creditor would otherwise have ; or,  
perhaps, portion out their fortunes to their fami-  
lies, in the very face of their Creditors and the  
Law, which the Debtor is authorised to do from  
this

this futile reasoning, "that while the body is held in prison, it is a satisfaction for the debt."

He adds, "It is the dread of imprisonment that gives birth to many crimes, it is the nurse of knavery and evasion; whereas, did a man who found himself in fluctuating circumstances know that the greatest evil which could happen would be to give up ALL his property for the payment of his debts, he would fearless stand in the face of his Creditors with a true disclosure and an honest surrender."

Upon the subject in general he remarks with a very glowing pen, "That strange as it is to believe, the body often remains in confinement for years, under all that state of *security* and *oppression*, which may be supposed to arise from *poverty* and *disease*; as if Debt was a crime of that atrocious and malignant nature, that no time could obliterate, or punishment extenuate! Shall it not be enough, that a man becomes dishonoured, despoiled of his property, subverted in his situation; shall it not be enough, that he has literally bestowed ALL he has in the world—the only recompence he *can* make; all which the law seems to *expect* him to make, and every thing the Creditor can ever hope?—Yet this shall not be an extenuation! DEBT, amongst the Christians of England, is of too black a die ever to be forgiven. "The pound of flesh nearest the heart," says the merciful Jew; "My bond or blood," exclaims the  
e humane

humane descendant of Enoch. What a glorious contrast to the Caffrean principles of the free-born Englishman ! for the flesh and blood finish the existence, and put a period to the miseries of the unhappy Debtor. But *that* would be too precipitate for the Christian principles of the *Briton*, who exults in seeing death appear with slow approaches to his enemy ; or, in the language of the Greek Emperor, so approaching, " THAT HE MAY FEEL HIMSELF DIE !"

" This barbarism of my countrymen is not to be removed by precept, while example is permitted daily to encourage it. And if the Laws forbear to interfere, by taking the state of Debtors under their direction, this evil and most dishonourable custom will still continue to prevail."

The PRISONER released :  
A  
S E R M O N,

P R E A C H E D B Y

The Reverend Dr. D O D D,

I N

Charlotte-street and Bedford Chapels,

A N D P U B L I S H E D

B Y P A R T I C U L A R R E Q U E S T,

F O R T H E B E N E F I T O F

U N F O R T U N A T E P E R S O N S confined for  
S M A L L D E B T S.

O H L E T T H E S O R R O W F U L S I G H I N G O F T H E P R I  
S O N E R S C O M E B E F O R E T H E E ! Psalm lxxix, 12.





# P R E F A C E

To the First EDITION.

*April 22, 1772.*

**S**TRUCK with compassion for the miseries of those unfortunate men, who are cruelly “secluded from all the comforts and advantages of Society for inconsiderable Debts,” the Author of this discourse determined to attempt something, on his part, for their relief. And well knowing the benevolence and charity of those Congregations with whom he has the happiness to be connected, he resolved to solicit from the Pulpit their humane assistance. He was not disappointed in his hopes; an handsome collection was made; and, to his great satisfaction, a general approbation of the undertaking expressed. Nor was money alone imparted freely: A set of gentlemen, with the utmost readiness, formed themselves into a Committee for the distribution of the Charity; and, with uncommon pains and application, sought out the proper objects, and relieved them. It is scarce to be credited, that so much good could

## P R E F A C E

be done with so small a sum ; but the merit of this is wholly due to the Gentlemen of the Committee, who have spared no toil, nor omitted any measures, to discharge their trust, and distribute the Beneficence received, in the most advantageous and æconomical manner.

The miseries and distresses to which they were witnesses, in their examination of the several Gaols, so strongly impressed their hearts, and so many proper objects still remained to be discharged, that they unitedly requested the Author of this Discourse to print it, with an account of their proceedings ; that not only the Congregations, who had so kindly administered to the good work might be encouraged to persevere in the same *Labours of Love*, by seeing the happy fruits of their liberality ; but that the Public also might be stimulated to a laudable imitation, and help forward the charitable design. Happy will the Writer think himself, if a compliance with this request of his friends can by any means advance the benevolent work : he readily appropriates to that end, his little Essay (designed and penned, in the fulness of his heart, solely for the *Day*) and heartily wishes it may serve to procure such a supply  
from

## TO THE FIRST EDITION.

from the generous and humane, as will enable the Committee to perfect their hospitable purposes, and to open the Prison-gates to every industrious and deserving prisoner.

It may be proper just to signify, that this relief has been, and is intended to be, confined to those, who could not avail themselves of the present Insolvent Act: and who, therefore, are doubtless greater objects of commiseration; since without some such assistance as the present, they may continue *Years* in Prison, miserable in themselves, and useless to the community.

## P R E F A C E

*Thatched-House Tavern, St. James's  
April 16, 1772.*

The Committee, appointed to distribute the  
Money collected for the Relief of Persons  
confined for small Debts,

## R E P O R T,

**T**HAT out of 109 Supplicants for this  
Charity, they selected 34, most of  
whom have large Families, and appear to  
be useful Members of Society: Some of them  
were confined only for their Fees, and the  
Debts of the others the Committee compounded  
on the best Terms they could. The ob-  
jects who were aged and infirm, are restored  
to their Friends; others, who were with  
their Wives and Families in Prison, are re-  
stored to the Manufactures wherein they were  
skilled; particularly four Manufacturers, with  
their Wives and twenty-three Children, were  
taken out of Prison for the trifling Sum of  
15l. 1s. 3d. except one of the Women, who  
died of a broken Heart and the Goal Distem-  
per, before Relief could be administered.

The

## TO THE FIRST EDITION.

The Utility of this Charity to the Public will appear, from the Consideration that every Man's Labour may be estimated, at an Average, to be worth to the Community 2s. 6d. per Day, or 39*£*. a Year: So that the Confinement of the four Manufacturers above mentioned, occasioned a loss to the Public at the Rate of 156*£*. annually, over and above what the Women and some of the Children, might have earned; all of whom, by a voluntary Confinement with the Father, were not only prevented from such Earnings, but became liable to the Consequences of habitual Indolence, Filth, Disease, and Vice; and probably, in a short Time, would have become Nuisances to the Public, and obnoxious to the Penal Laws.

Of the remaining 75 Supplicants, 19 appear to be the greatest Objects of Compassion, all of whom may be discharged for less than One Hundred Pounds. And of the rest, many are such as well deserve to share the Mercy of the Public; if it were possible, by future Contributions, to extend that Mercy to them. But those who wish to know more respecting these unfortunate Men, may be fully satisfied by applying to the Committee



P R E F A C E, &c.

at the *Thatched-House*, where they may read the Petitions, and hear a true State of the Difficulties and Distresses of the Prisoners at present confined: For, willing to preserve, amidst their charitable Aid, a Delicacy and Regard to the Unfortunate, it is hoped the Public will judge it not improper, that all mention of Names is omitted,

T H E

T H E  
PRISONER RELEASED, &c.

MATT. Ch. XXV. Ver. 36, latter part.

I WAS IN PRISON, AND YE CAME  
UNTO ME.

**A**MONGST that variety of arguments, which tend to demonstrate the truth and divine original of the Christian Faith, there is none more persuasive and convincing than that which is drawn from the *spirit* of this faith;—from that humane and benevolent disposition which it inculcates, as its great and distinguishing characteristick. Every Precept laid down by the wise and gracious Author of this Religion is replete with good-will to Man: Every action of his life emphatically expresses the same benign tendency; nay, and as love, universal love to all mankind, constitutes, if I may say so, the very sum and substance of his doctrine, so he has positively declared it the essential badge and mark of all his true Disciples. *This is MY Commandment*, my peculiar and distinguishing commandment, *that ye love one ano-*

*other : By this shall all men know that ye are my Disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

Treading in the steps of their divine Master well informed of his doctrine, and full of his spirit, his immediate successors in the great work of propagating the Gospel were diligent to inculcate the same maxims of humanity. Hear how St. Paul expresses himself on the subject, in his 12th Chapter to the Romans ;—a Chapter more fraught with sublime Morality, than the most elaborate treatises of antiquity.—*Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil ; cleave to that which is good : Be kindly affectioned one towards another, with brotherly love ; in honour preferring one another.—Distributing to the necessity of the Saints ; given to Hospitality. Bless them who persecute you : Bless, and curse not, Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Owe no man any thing, but to love one another : For he that loveth another, hath fulfilled the Law.*

And, in perfect conformity with these heavenly, these sublime and blessed sentiments, the divine St. John,—who lay in the bosom of Jesus, and thence imbibed, as it were, the very soul of love,—exhorts, with his usual sweetness  
and

and affection, *Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and every one that loveth, is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not, knoweth not God; for GOD is LOVE. If we love one another, God, that pure essential LOVE, dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.*

So shining a mark of excellence and superiority stamped upon the religion of Christ, cannot fail at once to convince us of its truth, and to prove it worthy of the exalted source from whence it is derived; worthy of the wise and universal parent of mankind. Solicitous, in the boundless riches of his benignity, for the welfare of those creatures whom his sovereign hands have formed, he hath been pleased not only to interweave in the very texture of their inmost nature a strong principle of sympathy, humanity, or compassion;—a principle, which we find powerfully operating, as well amidst the wildest *Hordes* of the *Tartars*, as amongst the most polished European nations;—but, to encourage and improve this principle, to exalt and sublimiate it even to a divine perfection, he hath constituted the active and uni-

#### 4 THE PRISONER

versal display of it, to be the great, the indispensable characteristick of that important revelation which he hath made by his only-begotten Son. A revelation fraught with innumerable blessings to man; but by nothing more amply attesting the Almighty's wisdom and goodness, than by the forcible manner in which it enjoins universal charity, universal good-will, a spirit of unbounded love, of unlimited mercy and tenderness to all the human race.

A Divine Revelation, delivered to free moral agents, and to be propagated by human means, must and can have only such influence and effects, as are consistent with those agents, with those means. It can urge no irresistible force: it must, it can operate on free and rational minds only by the means of moral suasion. And hence we may fully satisfy ourselves how it come to pass, that although the Christian Religion inculcates in this strong emphatic manner the practice of universal benevolence and love, yet so many are found, in countries professing that religion, not only void of each, but palpably actuated by the principles diametrically opposite.



posite. The fault lies not in the religion, or in the doctrine; but, unquestionably, with those who receive it not in its truth and perfection; hardening their minds against it, and encouraging dispositions, which are not more contrary than they are hateful and pernicious. Indeed, if on this account any reasonable objection could be urged against the Christian System, (which certainly cannot) assuredly the same, or even a stronger objection might be urged against the very being and excellence of that principle of Sympathy or Compassion, which we have remarked to be implanted and interwoven in the human nature. For, if the malevolent and uncharitable act contrary to the principles of their Christian faith, they certainly act as contrary to that great law of God, impressed upon their nature: and of consequence, before we can draw any conclusions derogatory to that faith, we must draw conclusions as derogatory to that principle; which I suppose will never be allowed; all the world agreeing to honour and estimate that principle in the highest degree. And therefore, upon the same foundation, the Christian religion must stand equally free from blame or Censure.

But

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But though I have said thus much to remove a difficulty, which some have pressed with seeming triumph, and others of better minds have felt with some disquietude; yet it is a fact not to be denied, that wherever the Christian religion hath been spread and propagated, and especially where it hath been professed in its greatest purity, a spirit of humanity and benevolence hath diffused itself: Mankind have become more civilized and more compassionate: A thousand barbarous customs and practices which, if need were, I could easily enumerate\*, have been discountenanced and disused: and the spirit of the religion of Jesus hath palpably and extensively displayed itself in the human heart and manners.

It is with a singular satisfaction that I observe we need not go further than our own KINGDOM for a sufficient testimony to the truth of what I have advanced. Consider it in the times of barbarous uncultivation; consider it in the days of darkness and idolatry;

\* See Doctor Robertson's admirable Sermon on the time of Christ's appearance in the world.

try; nay, consider it even when more refined and civilized, yet under the bondage of Popish superstition and ignorance; and then compare it with its present state! when truth shines with undiminished splendor; when liberty of conscience and free enquiry are universally allowed and indulged; when the faith of Christ is professed in as much purity, and understood with as much precision, as perhaps in any age: and then say, Do we not plainly trace out in the character and manners of our times, the high influence of the genuine *spirit* of that faith?—the influence I mean of that humanity, that benevolence, whereof I have been speaking.

For though, unquestionably, many vices and evils abound among us,—evils and vices, which it is to be feared, will always abound more or less in a great, a wealthy, and a populous nation like this;—though the serious eye discerns, and the feeling heart laments many, far too many deviations from the paths of truth and virtue: Yet, surely, it is not to be controverted or denied even by the most misanthropic and severe, “That a spirit of humanity characterises our nation.”

The

## 8 THE PRISONER

The hearts of Englishmen are as tender to feel, as their hands are ready to relieve. Amidst the most shining instances of intrepidity and courage, our heroes abroad have given testimony to this national spirit by deeds of the most extensive benevolence and humane compassion: while our countrymen at home have not been behind hand with them in succouring distress, and applying the lenient aid of mercy to sorrow and suffering, in whatever shape they have presented themselves.

“ For my own part, I cannot but felicitate my Country on the prevalence of a spirit at once so honourable and so advantageous: A spirit, which, while it does credit to human nature, is, and must be highly acceptable to the great Being who formed that nature; and appointed LOVE, appointed benevolence, as its characteristick law! May we not reasonably hope, my beloved, that the prevalence of this spirit, so estimable in the sight of God our Saviour, will plead with his mercy, strongly plead in behalf of our nation, so eminently blest and favoured by him; will stand in the gap between us and our manifold offences, and secure to us, through many  
gene-

generations, those high felicities so peculiarly our own !

“ Oh may his goodness not only bless our land with every desirable blessing ; not only pour forth more abundantly into every heart that spirit of benevolence, which hath already been productive of so many laudable undertakings ! but may his providential care prosper and succeed every such undertaking ! May the dew of his mercy fall richly upon every good, every compassionate design ; and cause each one of them to flourish abundantly, and bring forth the most desirable fruits, to the encouragement and satisfaction of the promoters, to the advantage and comfort of those who partake of them ! ” \*

But, while thus felicitating ourselves and our country on the prevalence of the genuine spirit of Christian benevolence and mercy amongst us ; while wishing prosperity and good luck in the name of the Lord to every institution and to every effort of that merciful

\* It is to be hoped that this short Quotation from a discourse before published, will be pardoned and allowed by the Candid, as the present was never designed for publication. See “ Sermon before Governors of the Magdalen, preached at St. George’s Hanover-square.



ciful and philanthropic spirit: You, will allow me to request your more particular attention at present to an *Object*, which appears to have an high claim on our humanity; and which will afford you, my brethren, an ample opportunity to verify the observation we have made on our national spirit and character.

The object I wish to recommend, is “The Relief of poor Debtors, confined in prison for small Debts?”

It is not by any means my purpose to enter at large into the consideration of Imprisonment for debt; a topic at present much agitated, and doubtless extremely important. The subject is not only far too complicated in itself, but certainly, in a great measure, foreign to the business of this place. Leaving it therefore to those venerable sages of the law, with whose wisdom, justice, and humanity, the sacred rights of Englishmen are securely lodged; I shall only just observe, that though compassion would ever incline me to take the side of the unfortunate Debtor; yet due consideration should be paid to the claims of the Creditor; or the interests of society may be wounded even more by a too indulgent

indulgent lenity, than by what some may suppose, a too rigid severity.

But, whatever may be necessary in such cases and circumstances for the interests of society, one position may be laid down, and will be received, I apprehend, with the general suffrage: "That those unhappy persons, who, by a series of misfortunes, have been reduced to a state of insolvency, and have honestly and unreservedly given up their All, ought not, upon any of the principles of humanity or policy, to be confined in prison, and restrained from a possibility of procuring their bread, or of doing justice to their creditors." And I am happy to find that my sentiments on this topic are strongly supported by the excellent and humane author of "*The principles of Penal Laws*," a work which does no less credit to the heart, than to the judgement and abilities of the writer. He observes, "That the case of a confined Debtor, whose confinement is the mere consequence of inevitable misfortune, without any mixture of criminality or neglect on his own part, is extremely pitiable, and contradictory to every just principle of Legislation."\*

May

\* Page 52. 2d. Edit.

May I not venture to go one step farther than this benevolent writer hath advanced, and to say, "Supposing the person confined is not perfectly free from all blame; suppose instances of misconduct *may* be urged against him; yet, if he is wholly insolvent; if he hath absolutely and unreservedly given up all; is not his case extremely pitiable, if confinement be added to the rest of his misfortunes? and does it not seem contradictory to every just principle of Legislation, to every principle of equity, of humanity, of religion, to augment the load of such a wretch's woe, by depriving both society and himself of any benefit from his future industry and labour?"

From a numberless variety of accidental circumstances (says the Author just quoted) which happen in the course of human transactions, it must fall to the lot of many to become insolvent. *Debtors* therefore, though certainly a species of criminals, should in general be considered rather as *unfortunate* than *culpable*." And if Debtors in general should be considered in this view; if all, under that unhappy predicament, have "a claim to humane treatment," how much rather should

we

we view in this light, should we treat in this manner, those, who in the circumstances of Debt just now defined, are by the universal voice, by the general decision of humanity and policy, objects of the truest compassion.

It is on behalf of such that I now appear an humble advocate ; imploring your generous and considerate aid towards the relief and enfranchisement of such poor men as, confined in prison for *small debts*, are unable to pay, and are lost to their families and the publick. The multiplicity of Debtors confined in our several gaols, renders it impossible for so feeble an effort as the present to look to, or to think of relieving any but such as are imprisoned for small sums. However, were an effort of this kind seconded and generally pursued, doubtless numbers of these unfortunate men would reap benefit from it ; and it would prove a temporary supply, a palliative at least, till the wisdom of Legislature shall think fit to interpose, and to offer a perfect remedy for the evil. But, be that matter as it may ; be our efforts seconded or not, suffice it for *us*, my beloved, that we do our parts as men, and as christians ;

## 14 THE PRISONER

tians; suffice it for us, that we gratify our humanity and benevolence with the exquisite luxury of contributing what we are able, towards the liberty, the comfort, the peace;—towards the deliverance of our fellow creatures from imprisonment and misery! *If one*, if it were but one honest and worthy man that should reap the fruits of our charitable aid; if our compassionate hands could unlock the prison gates only to one distressed and forlorn sufferer, restoring him to freedom, to industry, to his afflicted wife and miserable children, surely it were a deed truly meritorious in itself, and such as must refresh the benevolent heart contributing towards it.

To move such benevolent hearts, already sufficiently stimulated to acts of Mercy by their own genuine feelings, I need not exaggerate,—indeed it seems impossible to exaggerate the wretched circumstances of a man, torn for a little trifling sum, which all his industry has not been able to procure, and which, perhaps, has been expended in necessary supplies for the support of his family;---for that trifling sum, torn from his  
humble,



humble, but beloved dwelling; torn from the wife he affectionately regards; torn from the children dearer to his embraces than life: his humble substance rudely seized, and cruelly dispersed; and himself, hurried by the unfeeling hands of imposition and insolence to a loathsome prison!—there to remain, deprived of all the common comforts of life: of that free air, which all bounteous Heaven ordained to breathe on all its creatures; of that liberty, which to Man is justly the most invaluable of blessings; of that peace of mind, which gives to every sphere of life its zest and relish: deprived of every means to supply his own wants, or that loved family's wants, which possibly oppress him much more than his own; deprived, in short, almost deprived even of the wretch's last source and support, of hope itself; and left in loneliness and solitude to indulge his own sad reflections; or, what is worse, far worse, prevented perhaps from indulging those or any other reflections, by the obstreperous and abandoned crew, who are not less hardened by their confinement than by their crimes.

Oh

16 THE PRISONER.

Oh ye blest, and ye fortunate ! you, whom Providence hath graciously exempted from these complicated sorrows ; you, within whose doors importunate want never dares to intrude ; you, who can walk forth at will, and enjoy the common bounties of Heaven—air, health, freedom, peace ;—Come with me, ye happy ones, and let us for a moment visit the disconsolate debtor, the father, the husband, the man ; sinking under every sorrow which humanity can sustain ; pallid with grief, sordid in his dress ; dejected, drooping, miserable ; famine, confinement, and sorrow fixing at once their fierce fangs upon him, and tearing with more than vulture keenness every tenderest string which winds about his heart !

Oh, ye blest, and ye free ! disdain not to visit, to commiserate, to relieve such a sufferer ; for he is not only a *Man*, a fellow-creature, and so justly intitled to your regard and relief, but he is a *Christian* ; and in visiting and relieving him,—hear, O Heaven, and give ear, O Earth, to the great, the astonishing, the animating truth !—In visiting and relieving him, you visit and relieve even *Christ himself* ; for thus runs the sacred,  
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the solemn Declaration from the mouth of that ever gracious Redeemer—*I was in Prison and ye came unto ME.*

Were there no reasons of sound policy, or of sympathetic humanity to urge; were it impossible to offer any arguments of true pity and compassion in behalf of unfortunate and insolvent prisoners; yet, surely, it were enough with *Christians* to awaken all their zeal, and to call forth all their aid, to hear that their great, their glorious and ever blessed Master; He who, when they were Debtors indeed, and had nothing to pay, not only frankly forgave, but died to discharge their Debt; He, who ever lives to reward their munificence, and to crown with eternal blessings their acts of benevolence and mercy; to hear *him* declare, that in visiting and relieving the *Prisoner*, they in fact visit and relieve HIM: That whatever they charitably do even to the least of those fellow-creatures, whom he condescends to call his *Brethren*, he esteems and receives it as done unto himself; *In as much as ye have done it unto the least of these MY BRETHREN, ye have done it UNTO ME!*

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## 18 THE PRISONER

It is not possible to produce a more convincing argument than this, of that great position with which I set out, and which I have endeavoured to prove; "That a spirit of humanity is the great, the distinguishing characteristic of the Christian Religion." The divine Author of that religion, on his seat of awful and tremendous judgment has constituted the sacred acts of humanity and benevolence, as the solemn, the decisive test of his eternal approbation or dispraise: Who then shall dare to neglect or despise those sacred acts?

Be it ours, dearly beloved, to excel in all such acts: and, with a view to that tremendous day, let us be solicitous, during this short time of trial allowed us, to improve every occasion afforded us of doing good, of shewing mercy and loving kindness. In the present instance especially, let us demonstrate not only that the genuine Spirit of Christianity influences our souls, but let us add a further proof of that National Spirit, which we have asserted to be the consequence of the former, as well as the happy characteristic of our times; Let us add, I say, a farther

ther and a noble proof of it, by liberally contributing towards the relief of the unhappy Debtor, by setting open the doors of confinement, and letting the Prisoner go free.

Thus shall we gratify the best and most honourable feelings of our nature ; thus shall we restore to many fellow-creatures some of the highest comforts and priviledges which belong to mankind ; thus shall we *deliver the poor that cry, and the afflicted who have none to help them ; thus the blessings of them who are ready to perish will come upon us ;* and thus, which is infinitely more than all, the blessings of HIM will come upon us, who is no less bounteous than he is almighty to bestow : and to whom,—the great judge of men,—be ascribed all Honour and Glory, now and for evermore. *Amen.*



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RULES AND ORDERS  
OF THE  
S O C I E T Y  
FOR THE  
DISCHARGE AND RELIEF  
O F

Persons imprisoned for SMALL DEBTS,  
Resolved upon May 12, 1773.

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## RULES AND ORDERS, &amp;c.

## INTRODUCTION.

*Thatch'd-House Tavern, May 12, 1773.*

**T**HE present Charity derives its Commencement from the foregoing Sermon preached at Charlotte-street Chapel, and at Bedford Chapel in Bloomsbury, in the Month of February, 1772.

Struck with Compassion for the Miseries of those unfortunate Persons who are cruelly secluded from Society for inconsiderable Debts, the Author of the Sermon determined to attempt something on his part for their Relief, and accordingly solicited from the Pulpit the humane Assistance of his Congregations. A Collection was made of above Eighty Pounds; a general Approbation of the Undertaking was expressed; and a Set of Gentlemen, at the request of the Preacher, readily formed themselves into a Committee,

to search out proper Objects, and distribute the Donations in the most œconomical manner.

The Distress and Wretchedness to which they were Witnesses on visiting the several Gaols, strongly impressed their Hearts; and many proper Objects still remaining undischarged, they desired to have the Sermon printed, with an Account of their Proceedings, that the Public might be stimulated to help forward the charitable Design, and thus enable them to accomplish their Wishes, by opening the Prison Doors to every industrious and deserving Fellow Creature; who, without such Assistance, might continue *Years* in Confinement, miserable in themselves, and useless to the Community.

Accordingly, in April 1772, the Sermon was published, together with a Cash Account, and Report, prefixed by the Committee, dated April the 16th, specifying the Manner in which they had expended the Monies, and that with *Fourscore Pounds* they had released *Thirty-four Prisoners*, most of whom had large Families, and appeared to be useful Members of Society!

In



# INTRODUCTION. 25

In Consequence of the Publication, the Committee soon found themselves enabled by the liberal and well disposed Public, to extend their Views, and to reach out the Hand of Mercy to a much greater Number of unfortunate Prisoners: So that their general Account of the Charity now stands as follows:

	£.	s.	d.
Benefactions as by the last Report of this Day ( <i>May 12, 1773.</i> )	2922	11	10
Disbursements,	1892	19	4
Ballance in Hand,	£. 29	12	6

In the Infancy of the Charity, the Committee, hardly sanguine enough to expect so liberal an Encouragement, did not take an accurate Account of the Wives and Families of the Prisoners released; however, from an Inspection of their Books it appears that 986 Persons have been discharged, who had 566 Wives, and 2389 Children; making in all 3941 Souls relieved by Means of the publick Humanity, within the space of *fifteen Months* from the Commencement of the Institution.

Far the greater Number of the Objects released are MANUFACTURERS, SEAMEN, and  
C 5 LABOURERS,

## 26 INTRODUCTION.

LABOURERS, whose Usefulness—cut off from Society in the doleful Prison-House—is thus happily restored to the Public. So that the Charity in Question claims Attention not only from the Humanity of its Design, but also from the Advantages which it derives to the Community in general : Not to mention the Relief thus afforded to the respective *Parishes*, (upon which the Wives and Families of the wretched Objects must in all probability have become a Burden) and the Benefits resulting to the honest *Creditor* from this salutary Interposition to liquidate and discharge his Demands : For,

On a Review of the Society's Books, it likewise appears that various considerable Debts, to the Amount of TWELVE THOUSAND POUNDS and upwards, have been so compounded and reduced, as to bring the Objects relieved in those Instances within the Scope and original Intention of the Charity ; and at the Time of compounding such Debts equal Attention hath been constantly paid to the peculiar Circumstances both of the Creditor and his helpless Debtor.

“ The Utility of the Charity to the Public will farther appear from the Consideration, that every Man's Labour may be estimated,

## INTRODUCTION. 27

at an Average, to be worth to the Community 2s. 6d. per Day, or 39l. a Year." Now the Charity hath already, within fifteen Months, discharged above 980 Objects for about eight and-twenty hundred Pounds; so that the average Disbursement for each Prisoner (inclusive of incidental and necessary Expences) does not amount to 3l. a Man.— A striking Consideration, surely, in a commercial Kingdom!

Such then was the *Origin*, and such hath been the *Progress* of the present Institution.

Zealous still farther to promote the good Work, the Gentlemen originally concerned determined to omit no Means of giving it STABILITY and SUCCESS.

Application was accordingly made for that Purpose; and,

On the 5th of this instant May, at a Meeting for the Choice of a PRESIDENT and VICE-PRESIDENTS,

Rt. Hon. Lord ROMNEY,	—	President,
Right Hon. Lord Chief Baron		
SMYTHE,	—	
Right Hon. Lord BEAUCHAMP,		
Hon. Mr. Justice NARES, and		
JOHN THORNTON, Esq;		

Vice-  
Presidents.

were nominated, and with their usual Humanity very kindly accepted their respective Offices. Mr. NEILD undertook the *Treasurership*, and Mr. NELME was appointed *Secretary* to the Society: After which were read, considered, and unanimously confirmed the following

## RULES AND ORDERS.

### I. NAME of the CHARITY.

**T**HAT this Institution be called, "*The SOCIETY for the DISCHARGE and RELIEF of Persons imprisoned for SMALL DEBTS.*"

### II. OFFICERS.

That this Charity do consist of a President, four Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, Secretary, and Committee.

### III. COMMITTEE.

1. That the Committee be open to, and consist of all such Persons as are qualified to be Governors.

2. That

## AND ORDERS.

29

2. That of the Committee Five Members constitute a Quorum.

### IV. MEETINGS.

1. That there be an ANNUAL MEETING, on or about the 5th of May.
2. That there be four Quarterly General Meetings in every Year.
3. And also a Meeting of the Committee on every Wednesday Evening, during the Winter Months; or otherwise, in the Summer Months, as to the Committee may seem necessary and proper.
4. Of all which several Meetings due notice shall be given by Advertisement in the publick News-papers.
5. That the Place for holding all such Meetings be at the *Thatched-House Tavern*, in St. James's-Street, or otherwise, \* as shall be thought most convenient.
6. And that the weekly, or other Meetings of the Committee on Wednesday Evenings, begin constantly at Five o'Clock, and end at Eight; when the Accounts are to be adjusted, and the Books closed.

\* The Society have found it necessary to take an Office, at No. 7, *Crown-street, Strand*; where the business of the Charity is now transacted.

V. Of



V. *Of the* TREASURER.

1. That he receive all Benefactions, keep an Account of all Receipts and Payments, and adjust the same at the four General Quarterly Courts, or oftener, if required by the rest of the Governors.
2. He is to advance no Monies on account of the Charity, unless authorised thereto by Writing under the Hand of three of the Committee, at the Time of their Wednesday Evening Meetings.

VI. *Of the* SECRETARY.

He is to be present at all the Meetings of the Governors, to take the Minutes; receive and prepare all Petitions; make the necessary Enquiries, and report to the Committee concerning them; to draw up the Accounts; and carry on the Correspondence and Business of the Charity, under the Direction of the Committee.

VII. *Of* GOVERNORS *in general, and their* Qualification.

1. That this Charity be supported by annual Subscriptions, or other voluntary Benefactions.
2. That

## AND ORDERS.

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2. That all annual Subscribers of or above the Sum of two Guineas, are, and shall be esteemed Governors, and of the Committee.
3. That if any annual Subscriber shall be more than two Years in arrear, his Power as a Governor shall cease, until such Arrears are paid.
4. That all Benefactions at, or above the Sum of twenty Guineas, now are, and shall be esteemed Perpetual Governors.
5. That the Nomination of Officers be in the Governors, and determined by a Majority.

### VIII. *Of the OBJECTS to be relieved.*

1. They shall be Persons actually imprisoned, whose respective Debts, or the Composition for whose Debts, shall not exceed the Sum of TEN POUNDS.
2. That Women shall be equally intitled to the Benefit of this Charity as Men.
3. That such Debtors shall have the Preference as are most aged or infirm; have the largest Families unprovided for; as are the most likely to be useful to the Community, and appear to have lost their Liberty by  
unavoidable

unavoidable Misfortunes ; at least not by Fraud, Vice, or Extravagance.

4. That, in the latter Case, if the Debtors have helpless Families, who suffer by the Faults of their Principal, and are undeservedly reduced to Poverty, the Committee shall be at liberty to give the Family some Assistance, in Proportion to their Distresses, and agreeable to the Intention of the Charity.
5. That no Persons be delivered a *second* Time, unless it shall appear to the Committee that their second Misfortune cannot be imputed to their own Fault.
6. That a List be annually published of the Number of Persons discharged and relieved, but their Names not mentioned ; together with an Account of the Sums paid for each Debtor, and of the Prisons from whence they were respectively discharged.
7. That at the Time of Discharge, a short printed EXHORTATION \* be given to every Person released.

#### IX. *Of PETITIONS and PETITIONERS.*

That Petitions be received only on a Wednesday. That the Committee refer such

\* For the satisfaction of the Subscribers, this is printed immediately after the present Rules.

Petitions to the Secretary, for his Examination and Enquiry, during the current Week. That the Report he shall make on them be considered on the subsequent Wednesday, or next Committee Meeting; and that they be proceeded on accordingly, in preference to any other Applications.

*Form of BEQUESTS, or LEGACIES.*

“I do give and bequeath unto *The SOCIETY for the DISCHARGE and RELIEF of Persons imprisoned for Small Debts*, the Sum of \_\_\_\_\_ to be applied by the Governors thereof for the sole Uses and Purposes of that humane Institution.”

✂ BENEFACCTIONS for this Charity are received at No. 7, *Craven Street*, and at the *Thatch'd-House Tavern*, in *St. James's Street*; by Mr. *Leacroft*, Bookseller, at *Charing-Cross*, and at the following Bankers, viz. Messrs. *Dorrien, Rucker, and Carleton*, in *Finch Lane, Cornhill*; Messrs. *Hoares*, in *Fleet Street*; Messrs. *Biddulph and Cox*, at *Charing-Cross*; the *London Exchange Banking Company*, in *St. James's Street*; at Messrs. *Fullers*, and Messrs. *Lowry and Co.* in *Lombard Street*.

*Heads of the RULES and ORDERS, &c.*

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EXHORTATION \*

TO THE

DEBTORS RELEASED,

BY THE

SOCIETY

FOR THE

DISCHARGE AND RELIEF

OF

PERSONS imprisoned for SMALL DEBTS.

\* See p. 32.

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# EXHORTATION

TO THE

DEBTOR RELEASED,

BY THE

S O C I E T Y

FOR THE

DISCHARGE AND RELIEF

OF

PERSONS imprisoned for SMALL DEBTS.

MY FRIEND,

**H**APPY in a deliverance from the miseries of a Jail, through the *goodness of God*, and the *charity of your fellow-creatures*, you cannot be insensible that it is your duty TO BE THANKFUL.

Your first, and most grateful thanks are due to God, your Creator, Redeemer and Preserver,

Preserver, whose good Providence is over all his creatures : and, in full proof of it, He hath not suffered you to languish in melancholy confinement ; but, regarding your distress with a fatherly eye, hath wonderfully rescued you from it, through means wholly unexpected and unmerited by you.

Offer up, therefore, to this great and gracious Author of your deliverance, the earnest and unfeigned thanksgiving of your heart. Cry out with the Psalmist, *What shall I render unto the Lord, for all the benefits that he hath done unto me ? I will offer unto him the sacrifice of Thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord* \*. Consider how easy to yourself this tribute of praise and gratitude is, while it is of all others the most acceptable to God, as being a sufficient proof of a sincere and honest heart. And at the same time recollect, that a deficiency in it, will not only shew you unworthy of the past, but will certainly deprive you of future favours from God. It is therefore no less your duty than your interest, *to be thankful*.

\* Psalm cxvi. 11, 15.

Gratitude to *God* is the Well-spring and Fountain-head, as it were, of every other virtue. They who excel in it, can never be deficient in gratitude to their *earthly Benefactors*.

It is to them, under the Divine Providence, that you owe all your present views of future happy life. They, moved by a generous commiseration of your distresses, have discharged your Debts, have opened to you the Prison gates, and given you again that, which is of all things most desirable to human creatures—the enjoyment of **LIBERTY**! Perfectly disinterested as their Charity is towards you, you cannot fail to hold it in the highest estimation: you cannot fail to offer up your fervent and constant Prayers for the humane Imparters of it: and to shew yourself worthy of their pity, and their bounty, by seriously reflecting on the proper means to improve the happiness which they have communicated

To this end, after having offered up your earnest *Prayers* and *Thanksgivings* to *God*, and implored his blessing on your *Benefactors*, intreat **HIM** to enlighten your mind, while  
in



in serious thought you REFLECT (and with a determined purpose to act agreeably to those Reflections) on the CAUSES which deprived you of Liberty, and lodged you within the mournful Prison walls.

If those CAUSES were evil, if Vice and Folly, Extravagance and Dissipation wrought your overthrow, and involved you in those Debts which humanity has so generously discharged; remember, that the same *Causes* will always produce the same *Effects*: and that if abusing the present providential mercy, you indulge in and pursue your former Vices, Distresses more fatal than before will most certainly ensue. For Humanity will then no more open her liberal hand to relieve\*: You will return to, and perhaps perish in, doleful confinement, deservedly unpitied; the miseries of that state horridly aggravated to you by the consciousness of your past folly, ingratitude and vice. Our Saviour's counsel, therefore, to the Paralytic whom he restored

\* N. B. By the RULES and ORDERS of the Society, it is expressly enjoined, "That no persons be delivered a second Time, unless it shall appear to the Committee that their second misfortune cannot be imputed to their own fault," Rule VIII. No. 3 p. 32.

to health, may with great force and propriety be applied to you; *Behold, thou art made whole: Sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee* †.—“Behold thou art made free; delivered from Debt, from Prison, and from Sorrow:—*Sin no more*; but seriously repent and reform thy life: otherwise, the vices which wrought thy past sorrow, will plunge thee into sorrows much more fatal and severe!”

But, if you are happy enough to be able to lay your hand upon your heart, and to appeal, in this solemn review of your actions, to the Searcher of all secrets, that no flagrant sins or vices of yours have been the immediate cause of your misfortunes; but that they have arisen from *imprudences* perhaps, from ignorance and unskilfulness; from a want of experience, or the common and unforeseen casualties and occurrences of Life:—In this case, though you may have much greater cause of self-satisfaction than in the former, yet there will not be less need that you frame your future plan of conduct, as much as possible, on the principles of

† John v. ver. 14.

## 42 EXHORTATION

prudent *Care* and deliberate circumspection. Especially, you must study to improve and grow wary from your past mistakes and inadvertences ; and determine to act, under a constant sense of God's immediate presence and directing Providence, with all caution, advice, and consideration. Ever willing to take and to hear counsel, and to use such discretion in the management of yourself and your concerns, that, amidst any of the changes and chances of life, you may at least have the satisfaction to look up to God, and to appeal to Men, as having faithfully, honestly, industriously, and to the best of your abilities and understanding, done your utmost.

For this purpose, you must be particularly careful of your future behaviour and conduct in life ; settling it well in your mind, and determining, not only to avoid all that Evil, which was in any respect prejudicial and ruinous to you, but to practice all those Virtues, and to exert all those efforts, whose sure reward are prosperity and peace.

It would be endless and unnecessary to enumerate those Virtues ; and almost as unnecessary to say, that without the strictest co-

BRIETY

BRIETY in particular, the rest will be impracticable. We must not, however, omit to mention, and to recommend in an especial manner, the exertion and constant exercise of one virtue, which you peculiarly owe to the Public, to your Benefactors, and to yourself; and that is **INDUSTRY**: Without which, as you will shew yourself utterly unworthy the mercy you have now received, so will you entirely defeat the great end at which we aim; namely, “ The restoring *industrious*, and consequently *useful* Members to the Community ”

You owe yourself, in the utmost exertion of *Industry* to that Community; without it you are a burden to the State: and let us add (for the consideration may perhaps work most strongly with you) without *Industry* you are, and ever will be, a burden to yourself. Sloth will *clothe you with rags\**; **INDUSTRY** will bring you competence and sufficiency, if not wealth. It will procure you the favour of God and of Man; and is that alone, which can thoroughly redeem you from the difficulties of your past situation,

\* Prov. xxiii. 21.

and reinstate you in full happiness and peace. Indeed, it is a most pleasing reflection, that we seldom see a man truly *industrious*, and honestly busying himself in his proper occupation, but success attends him; or if not success, yet at least the esteem and assistance of his fellow-creatures. *The hand of the diligent maketh rich†, but the slothful shall come under tribute‡. The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat||. He that diligently seeketh good, procureth favour\*; and Men will praise thee, when thou doest well to thyself§.*

We heartily wish you may verify these remarks; and, admonished by your late misfortunes, not only redeem the errors of the past, but by your honest industry for the time to come procure a blessing from the rich Providence of that God, who crowneth the industrious *with a good reward*, and enableth them *to rejoice in the labour of their hands*.

† Prov. x. 4.

‡ Ibid. xii. 24.

|| Ibid. xiii. 4.

\* Ibid. xi. 27.

§ Psalm xlix. 8.



In this view, let us particularly impress it upon your mind, that as you owe all your hopes of increase, under God, to that Charity which hath thus given you *Liberty*, as the first of blessings; so it is your immediate Duty, and will we trust, not only be your Happiness, but your fixed Purpose, to contribute what you can with justice and propriety, toward the assistance of the good work. Should the Providence of God succeed and prosper your well-meant endeavours in the paths of Industry and Virtue, how pleasing, how delightful must it be to your heart, to make a grateful return to your Benefactors!—whose hands will be open to receive from *you*, only the more largely to pour out Liberty, and Comfort to fellow-creatures.

On this noble principle, then, my late pitiable, but now happy friend! *Be merciful after thy power*, should the God of goodness give thee power to get wealth. *If thou hast much, give plenteously: if thou hast little, do thy diligence gladly to give of that little; for with such Sacrifices God is well pleased\**. And, indeed, if you consider, it is not only natural,

\* Tob. iv. 8. Heb. xiii. 16.

but just and reasonable to expect this pleasing return, in acknowledgement for those Benefits of which you have so fortunately partaken; to which, you owe in Gratitude and Justice so much; and from which, if liberally encouraged and promoted, by feeling hearts, you should reflect, that many other worthy, but unsuccessful men in future, may by God's blessing reap as great comforts and advantages as you yourself have done. *Be you therefore merciful, even as God and Man have been kind and merciful to you: Merciful to all; and surely we have no need to add, particularly so to such as shall happen by any means to become your Debtors: ever remembering that strong and emphatic application of the great Creditor in the Gospel, Shouldst not thou also have compassion on thy fellow-servant, even as I had pity on thee?\**

But further remember, that all charitable Gifts, as well as all moral Actions, should have a nobler source, and aim at higher views, than this world and its transitory concerns.

\* Read the whole parable, Matt, Chap. xiii. ver. 23, &c.

As you began with, so must you continually look up to God, not only as your great Deliverer, but as your perpetual Guardian, Benefactor and Friend; as your kind Preserver, Protector, and Father. To HIM, as the *End*, must you direct all your actions; Religion must be the grand spring and motive of all you do: For, be well assured, that unless you square your *Conduct* and direct your *Life* by God's unerring laws, you will neither proceed with Regularity in the *one*, nor with Success and Peace in the *other*.

Resolve, therefore, above all things, to form your future Life upon a strictly religious plan. Make that GOSPEL—which is fraught with the noblest consolation to minds in every distress and every condition,—your study, your delight, and your practice; and intreat your great Redeemer, who came to *preach Deliverance to the Captives*, that he would open your Eyes both to *see* and *know*, as well as to *fulfil* his blessed Precepts, which afford at once perfect freedom to the mind, and pure felicity to the life.

We wish you most seriously to reflect, that as the same motives of mere disinterested good will which incited us to discharge your

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Debts,

Debts, and deliver you from Prison, do incite us likewise to dismis you with this friendly Counsel; so you cannot fail to receive and to fulfil it, if you would not draw down upon you the most odious character of Ingratitude, Ignorance, and Self-delusion. We have not, we cannot have any other end in thus advising you, than a single wish to your future welfare; even *that it may be well with you, and with your Children for ever\**! We would extend that wish beyond our temporal Relief, beyond the present world. We would earnestly desire that our humble endeavours for your worldly good, may by God's grace be effectual to produce your spiritual, your eternal good.

To this end, we have exhorted you, To exercise a devout and amiable *thankfulness*.

1. To God, your supreme Benefactor:
2. To your *Fellow-creatures*, whom he hath happily made the instruments of his mercy towards you.

We have exhorted you—

—To serious *Consideration* on your past state and conduct—To thorough *Repentance* and intire *Reformation*, where that conduct

\* Deuteronomy v. 29.

## TO DEBTORS. 49

was evil :—To *Prudence* and wise *amendment*, where it was wrong.

—To *Diligence, Honesty, and Activity* in your sphere.

—To a grateful *remembrance of this Charity*, if providentially successful in your future industrious efforts. And above all,

To a strictly *Religious Life*, formed upon that divine and ever-glorious Rule of Faith and Practice, delivered by Jesus Christ in the Gospel.

And thus, my Friend, we bid you affectionately farewell ; earnestly intreating the God of mercy to second these our well-meant Instructions, and to carry them to your *Heart* :

A *Heart*, which surely can never forget that fatal loss of Liberty, and that melancholy Prison in which it was so lately, and perhaps *long*, confined. Oh, remember, that miserable and bitter as it was, yet from thence there must have been Redemption in a short time. Death would at least have set you free, if Benevolence had not. But recollect there is a *Prison*, from which nothing can deliver, if once we are consigned over to its horrors !—A Prison, prepared for



*the Devil and his Angels*, but reserved for those unfortunates, who in this Life despise the mercies of their redeeming Lord, forfeit his Favour, and rush into endless Perdition ! Let the miseries of your earthly Prison be, at least, as emblematical Instructors, to advise you of the infinitely—worse Miseries of that future Prison : and having now, by charitable mercy, escaped the *former*, never forget that by God's mercy in Christ Jesus, who came into this our Prison to redeem us from it—that by *his* Mercy which is everlasting and unbounded, you may escape the *latter*, if you are not wanting to yourself.

If you are,—if you abuse his Grace, and this high instance of his Providential Care and Mercy towards you ; if you dishonour his Gospel, defy his Laws, and act unworthy the name and character you bear, as a Christian and a Man ;—Think, how can you dwell in an everlasting Prison-house, in everlasting Confinement and Woe ; *where the Worm dieth not, and the Fire is not quenched* ; and whence there shall be no Redemption, no Delivery, no Return !

Rescued

Rescued from an earthly, may you be rescued from an eternal Prison! May you be wise to improve by every Trial and every Mercy of your God! May you be so wise, as seriously to consider these things; and so to live, and so to act, as to obtain the blessings of the Almighty both here and hereafter! D.

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✎ We here subjoin, and earnestly recommend to your use,

## THE DEBTOR'S THANKSGIVING

*For Deliverance out of Prison.*

**G**RACIOUS and all-merciful Lord God! who hearest the cries of the poor destitute, and despisest not the prisoners; who art rich in compassion and love to all such as call upon thee; accept, I beseech thee, O Father, the adoration, thanksgiving, and praise, of a most grateful heart. I was in prison, O God, and thou didst come unto me, in the pity and compassion of my fellow-creatures,

D 6

the

the works of thy hands, and the ministers of thy providential relief. Thou hast heard me, when I cried unto thee in my trouble. Thou hast saved me from my deep distress, when I was bound in the cords of affliction. Thou hast raised me up friends to commiserate and to help me. With joy and gratitude I see that the snare is broken, and I am delivered. Thou, Lord, hast brought me out of prison; thy hand is visible and well seen in my late deliverance; and therefore my soul shall give thanks unto thy name.

May I never overlook this thy goodness, O my God! Never suffer me to forget the vows and prayers which I made to thee in my distress; but let my whole future life be one acceptable sacrifice to thee, my great deliverer! and do thou make all my future conduct to shew forth thy praise. May my past misfortunes teach me prudence in my worldly affairs, and convince me of the necessity of care and diligence, of fidelity and honesty in all my dealings; that so I may never, by any extravagance or wilful indiscretion, bring myself or others into the same misfortunes, lest a worse thing come unto me!

May

## THANKSGIVING. 53

May my late imprisonment and extreme affliction teach me pity, and inspire my heart with kindness towards all who are in prison and afflicted; and particularly may thy blessing crown the endeavours, and reward the zealous labours of those, whom thou hast made the means of my deliverance, and the dispensers of my present comfort.

If at any time I have too much abused the liberty which I formerly enjoyed, pardon me I entreat thee! Thou God of mercy! and now at length, enable me to be a good steward of my bodily freedom, and to improve those happy opportunities, which are again, through thy mercy, put into my hands. As thou hast enlarged my body, do thou also more than ever enlarge my spirit, in fervent prayers for thy divine grace and guidance; in constant thanksgiving for the great benefits I have so unexpectedly received. And grant that I may evermore proclaim thy unmerited goodness, not only by my lips, but in my life. That so, delivered from the punishment of the laws of man here, I may finally be delivered from the condemnation of thy law hereafter, and for ever be redeemed at the  
great

54 THE DEBTOR's, &c.

great day of judgment, to the glory of thy  
holy name, through the merits of thy Son  
Jesus Christ, my blessed Lord and Saviour.  
*Amen!* B. -

THE



THE  
DEBTOR RELIEVED;

SKETCH OF A  
SACRED ODE,

BY DR. DODD.

Set to Music by Mr. HOOK:

AND PERFORMED AT  
CHARLOTTE-STREET CHAPEL,  
MAY 27, 1773.

AFTER A SERMON  
BY THE REV. DR. FRANKLIN,  
For the Benefit of the CHARITY.



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T H E  
DEBTOR RELIEVED, &c.

OH LET THE SORROWFUL SIGHING OF  
THE PRISONER COME BEFORE THEE,

SEE where he lies,  
Neglected and forlorn !  
From his dear Wife and tender Infants torn,  
Feeding on bitter tears and deep-drawn  
sighs :

The Husband, Father, and the Man.  
See where he lies ! dejected, pale, and wan !  
Immur'd within the doleful Prison's Wall,  
Depriv'd of every Good, Men valuable call !

SUN, that from your golden height,  
Scatter Glory and Delight ;  
Beams, which laughing Nature bless,  
With universal Chearfulness ;--

Ah,

58 THE DEBTOR

Ah, glorious Sun! for him in vain you glow,  
Blank, blank the Prospect all;  
'Tis Dreariness and Woe!

Spirit of celestial Birth,  
"Mountain Nymph, sweet LIBERTY!"  
Noblest Boon of Heaven to Earth,  
Oh how good to dwell with thee!  
How delectable to rove,  
O'er the Upland, through the Grove,  
Unrestrain'd in Bliss with thee

"Mountain Nymph, sweet LIBERTY!"  
Strike, strike the solemn Chord: And weep  
to view

A free-born MAN—a BRITON too,  
Of Freedom take his deep-ton'd sad Adieu!

Thou, cruel CREDITOR, forbear,—  
What would'st thou more than All?  
Enough, enough:—The MAN in Mercy  
spare;

Ah, why his Limbs enthrall?  
From his humble Home so dear,  
Oh, for Mercy do not tear!  
See his Wife in Sorrow drown'd,  
View his Infants weeping round:

From

From Industry his Hands restrain !  
Merciless !—what canst thou gain ?  
Shame, Disappointment, Curses, for thy  
Part :

While Hunger gnaws their Soul, and An-  
guish rends their Heart !

But see—with melting Pity in her Eye,  
Man's genial Friend, blest CHARITY,  
Religion's eldest, loveliest Child,  
Led by her Parent meek and mild,  
Their Anguish views !

And, as contemplating the mighty Woe,  
—Like the fam'd Soldier fill'd with Grief\*,  
Attentive bending o'er his eyeless Chief,—  
“ Ah, who she cried, could Help refuse ?  
Though Law it's Rigour will not bend,  
Nor stern Necessity relent ;  
In Pity to their Sufferings sent,  
We will Mercy's Arm extend ;  
We, my Sons, will help bestow.”

Thus as she spoke, a generous Glow  
Of her own Flame she did impart  
To many a noble, many a feeling Heart !

\* Alluding to the celebrated Print of Belisarius.

They



60 THE DEBTOR

They caught the Fire, and as it spread,  
The DEBTOR felt the Warmth, and rear'd  
his down-cast Head.

Then "Welcome, thrice welcome"—I  
heard his full Voice,

In Gratitude's deep Diapason rejoice :

"Oh welcome, blest Freedom, to Mortals  
most dear,

Lov'd Light of the Sun, balmy Sweetness  
of Air !

My again chearful Home, my dear Children  
my Wife :

All the Comforts of Man, all the blessings  
of Life !

Yes, my great Benefactors, my full Heart  
proclaims

What no words can utter, and blesteth your  
names.

Come my Wife, my Children join,  
Raise the Song to Strains divine.

Glorious GOD, the first to THEE,

We lift the Heart, we bow the Knee ;

For thou hast heard our Complaints, and SET  
THE PRISONER FREE !

Sons of Mercy, Sons of Heaven,

Next to THEM our Thanks be given.

[Lisp,

# RELIEVED.

61

[Lisp, my Babes, your Prayers and praise,

Father is the Boon you owe :

Wife, your Voice in Rapture raise,

'Tis a Husband they bestow\*.]

Louder still exalt the Strain.

These are Patriots, these are Men !

[The MERCIFUL are blest ; they share

On Earth, O God, thy constant Care !

And when thou shalt direct their Flight

To Realms of everlasting Light,]

Ministring Angels may they be,

Where all are blest—for all are FREE !

\* The Lines in Crotche's were not sung.

••• The

\* \* The Proprietors of *Covent-Garden* Theatre having given a Benefit for this Charity, the following letter appeared in the *Public Ledger*, in recommendation of the design: And an excellent EPILOGUE (which we subjoin) was written by the very humane and ingenious Mr. *Cumberland*.

To the Printer of the PUBLIC LEDGER.

S I R,

AS a Well-wisher to every act of humanity, I beg leave to express my satisfaction on surveying the various methods adopted in this great town for the relief of distress, and the comfort of the afflicted. 'Tis highly agreeable to see how Art is called in to the assistance of Nature's feelings: to see the useful and the pleasing happily unite their efforts to remove the heaviest of burdens from the breast of many a wretched fellow-creature. Perhaps Pity could not have struck out a more ingenious device for the furtherance of her kind views, than the mode so frequently offered to the Public of representing theatrical amusements for the support of charitable institutions,

stitutions. The heart of the virtuous is thus exhilarated, while its tenderest sentiments are soothed and indulged. Beneficence and pleasure thus move hand in hand, to strengthen the weak frame, and confirm the feeble knee; to pour a rich cordial upon the drooping spirits of virtue in distress; of innocence and industry, sunk into unmerited anguish, and unavoidable misery!

I am more immediately led into these reflections from reading in the papers of this day an Advertisement of a Comedy, and other Entertainments, to be performed next Thursday, at COVENT-GARDEN THEATRE, in behalf of a public Charity; a CHARITY, whose praises, from every quarter, bespeak its acceptance, and demonstrate its extensive utility;—That, I mean, instituted for *the Discharge and Relief of confined Debtors*.

I have ever thought it a striking object of the most humane and patriotic kind; and am persuaded that every generous mind must exult, to trace its progress, and mark its rapid increase. It is, in truth, one of those great events from little causes, which lift the eye to Heaven in admiration, and call down blessings on the heads

heads and hearts of those whom that Heaven directed to the work of such signal mercy. Surely the prospect before them, at the first, must have been a dreary and a miserable one; and could present them, on every visit to the loathsome jails, with only scenes of woe and horror! Scenes

Where science languishes, and merit mourns!  
Arms, arts, and talents suffer each by turns:  
True genius lies neglected and forgot,  
Want its reward, Imprisonment its lot.  
Obscur'd by fortune all degrees remain,  
Anguish their portion, and their penance pain.  
The *widow'd wife* partakes the husband's grief,  
And *father'd orphans* weep, a vain relief:  
While infant groups in squalid clusters run,  
And list assistance from the Sire undone.  
Depriv'd of fame, in expectation cross'd,  
His heart desponding, and his fortunes lost!

How pleasing a vicissitude doth the humanity of our times afford us, in contrast with the above pathetic lines! How truly, in the language of the finest Poet, and a Prophet too, may we exult in the cheering event, and say, "The spirit of humanity in Britain is

\* See Epistle to Lord North on IMPRISONMENT, &c.

indeed



indeed poured on us from on high! for the wilderness is become a fruitful field, and the fruitful field may be counted for a forest."

May that spirit of humanity ever actuate the Members who direct the Charity for poor Debtors! And may their laudable and much-applauded example diffuse its benign influence through the land, till mercy shall rise up against the judgment of the present laws, and the cries of an innocent man be never more heard to resound from the gloomy confines of a doleful prison!

I am, SIR, yours,

R.

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## E P I L O G U E,

WRITTEN BY

R. CUMBERLAND, Esq.

And spoken by Mr. HULL and Mrs. MATTOCKS, at Covent-Garden Theatre, after the *Jealous Wife*, performed for the Use of the Society at the Thatched House Tavern, for the Relief and Discharge of Persons imprisoned for small Debts.

E

*The*

*The Curtain rises, and discovers a Prison; at some Distance a Woman poorly habited, and in a disconsolate Attitude; after standing for some Time motionless, in a Posture of fixed Attention, she speaks.*

*Woman.*

**T**HOU loathsome dungeon, in whose dreary womb

The pining debtor finds a living tomb,  
Where 'midst the clank of chains and dismal yells  
Of shackled felons my sad husband dwells;  
From his dark cell, Oh give him to my view!  
Let him look forth, and take a last adieu.

*[As she advances towards the prison, a person in Gentleman's apparel accosts her.]*

*Man.*

Stay, child of sorrow, thou whose piercing groans  
Might move to pity e'en these senseless stones,  
Why dost thou bend thy melancholy way  
To that drear dungeon? Child of sorrow, stay.

*Woman.*

Why should I stay, or my sad griefs impart?  
Can there be pity in a human heart?  
Away, and let me die—

*Man.*

No; if 'tis there  
You seek some captive friend, renounce despair;  
For,

For, tho' the iron hand of law has barr'd  
 Those surly doors which yon dread mansion guard,  
 Know there are found, on whose dilated breasts  
 The heav'n-descended dove of pity rests,  
 Souls that delight with soft'ring smiles to cheer  
 The broken heart, and dry affliction's tear,  
 Pluck the wan debtor from his noisome den,  
 And launch him on the chearful walks of men.

*Woman.*

If such there be, oh lead me to their sight,  
 And let me plead a wretched suff'rer's right.  
 Can there be truth, humanity, or sense,  
 In laws that make misfortune an offence?  
 Torn from his famish'd babes, and frantic wife,  
 A father, husband, there must end his life!  
 Stretch'd on his straw the guiltless captive lies,  
 While round his temples sickly damps arise,  
 That e'en the murderer's ignominious fate  
 Were welcome refuge from his hopeless state.  
 Lost are the hands whose honest labour fed  
 His helpless innocents with daily bread;  
 For day by day the busy loom he ply'd,  
 With soft contentment singing by his side:  
 Till heaven flung out the signal to destroy,  
 And dropt it's curtain o'er this scene of joy.  
 Nine tedious weeks the languid patient lay  
 To dire disease an unresisting prey;  
 The tenth succeeded — when alas! behold  
 A worse tormentor in a human mould,

68 E P I L O G U E

A griping creditor ; escape who can,  
When man's great foe assumes the shape of man !  
Steel'd to their trade, and deaf to all our cries,  
Relentless ruffians seize their legal prize ;  
From my fond arms a dying husband tear,  
And plunge their victim in a dungeon—there.

*Man.*

Enough ! go speak the healing words of peace  
'To thy sad mate, and bear him this release.  
'Tell him the Muse, which on these scenes attends,  
'That balsam to his wounded spirit sends ;  
And know this truth thyself, 'tis not alone  
The preacher's pulpit, and the monarch's throne,  
That Charity frequents ; but in this age  
She guides the theatre, and treads the stage :  
Lo ! she is present, cast your eyes around,  
And here in each spectator's heart she' found.

---

\* \* \* On the morning of the day of performance, the subjoined paragraph was inserted by some Friend to the Charity in the *Daily Advertiser*, 23d Dec. 1773.

“ The avidity, with which the people of England have taken up the support of the national Charity for the Relief of Debtors, strongly indicates the delicacy of their feelings ; and it is happy to find the disinterested manner,

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manner, in which that Charity is conducted has not escaped the attention of Foreigners ; for their Ministers, it is said, will appear at their benefit this evening."

†† The Ambassadors accordingly did honour the Charity with their presence, and were pleased to express their approbation of the humane design. In consequence whereof the subsequent Lines appeared in several of the public Prints.

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*On seeing the Foreign Ministers at Covent-Garden Theatre, for the Benefit of the Charity for Relief of Debtors, &c.*

To R. CUMBERLAND, Esq;

WHILE British hearts, not less with courage fir'd,  
 Than with true Pity's generous glow inspir'd :  
 Keen to each pang of suffering and distress,  
 With joy present the cordial of redress :  
 The world around, attentive to their praise,  
 With equal wonder and applause, surveys ;  
 And the glad nations, as they view, admire,  
 Catch and communicate the glorious fire !

E 3

Yes,



Yes, gentle CUMBERLAND, this truth we  
 prov'd,  
 Sweet Bard, by all applauded and belov'd,  
 When late to hear thy plaintive numbers flow,  
 In all the moving melody of woe—  
 —Thy numbers genuine picture of thy heart—  
 Persuasive pleading the poor DEBTOR's part—  
 The noble Band, high by their Sov'reigns  
 plac'd,  
 The charitable scene together grac'd :  
 The truest praise imparting to our plan,  
 The plan of Mercy—and the cause of—*Man!*

Oh may those worthies, who so justly claim  
 The honour'd meed of genuine British fame!  
 Thro' all their realms of British mercy tell,  
 And spread that spirit they applaud so well!  
 Oh may those worthies—for their action shews  
 The kindred spirit in their breasts that glows:  
 That spirit wide thro' every region spread,  
 Where'er humanity hath tears to shed!  
 'That Man no more to Man the bitterest foe,  
 May melt with sympathy, and feel for woe:  
 That pale Affliction may be seen no more,  
 And dreary prisons ope each iron door.  
 'That one blest law may rule the willing ball,  
 And universal Love encircle all!

W. D.

The

✎ The following letter also appeared in the GAZETTEER, in recommendation of the Charity.

To the Printer of the GAZETTEER.

YOUR readiness to insert any thing in your useful paper that tends to the real benefit of mankind, induces me to send you the following piece.

All men of tender sensibility glory in the birth of a *Society* \* which does honour to humanity, and gratifies its most *delicate feelings*; a *Society* which has done the most *essential* service to the *commercial interests* of this kingdom, by giving freedom and new life to those useful manufacturers, whose labours are to the community an invaluable treasure. May divine providence prosper their endeavours for general good! and happy shall I esteem myself, if this small *effort* (a prelude to a more extensive plan I have in view) may render

\* The Society at the Thatched-House Tavern, St. James's-street, for relieving Persons confined for small debts.

for e

some service, by attracting the generous and humane to view with pitying eyes the sufferings of their fellow-creatures, and own that they are men. Those, whose hearts are divested of humanity, and who are deaf to the cries of distressed indigence, I address in the words of Juvenal, in his 15th Satire, who justly says, the man,

Who can all sense of others ills escape,  
Is but a brute at best in human shape.

Dec. 20, 1773. W. AUG. WILLIS, M.D.

# ODE TO THE SOCIETY, &c.

*I was in prison, and ye came unto me.*

Matthew, chap. 25. v. 36.

BLEST is the man, so sings the hallow'd Bard,  
Who to the needy lends a willing ear.  
Who views the poor with pitying eye,  
Nor proudly spurns the wretched when they cry:  
Heav'n will his pious care reward,  
From ev'ry trouble set him clear.  
Hail, Charity! thou heav'nly guest,  
Come fill our hearts with love divine,  
Best virtue of the human breast,  
Above them all transcendent shine!

Point

Point out to us the pleasing road,  
Which leads to glory and to God ;  
O fill our breasts with love sincere,  
And from the christian eye extract the pious tear.

See Indigence extend  
Her wither'd hand and sickly eye ;  
Hope bids her seek a tender friend  
To shield from sad necessity !  
She bids her trust Almighty pow'r  
To bless the present happy hour,  
And melt those hearts his mighty finger made,  
To be by heav'nly passions sway'd.

Industry, with careful hand,  
Dispenses blessings o'er the land ;  
While Merit through the sciences extends  
Her searching pow'rs for noblest ends.  
But sad imprisonment detains,  
And binds them with inglorious chains :  
Nerveless those hands which others wants supply !  
Industry asks to give her future pow'r,  
To crown with blessings each laborious hour ;  
She asks what Freedom's sons will ne'er deny,  
To make their *varied commerce* tell,  
Britons in *arts*, as well as *arms* excell.

Soft Innocence imploring stands,  
With lovely looks, uplifted hands !  
Can Britons turn a tearless eye,  
Or banish tender sympathy,

Refuse

Refuse to shield from future wee  
 The hands from whence their comforts flow,  
 Th' industrious father, and the faithful wife,  
 The social balm of human life,  
 His tender refuge from the pangs of grief.  
 Fill'd with affection, see her streaming eyes  
 In silent sorrow wooe the pitying skies;  
 From *Heaven* and *you* she seeks relief.

Ye gen'rous Fair, whose bosoms feel  
 The tend'rest pangs for others wee,  
 Your soft sensations strive not to conceal;  
 And, while the chrystal torrents flow,  
 Indulge the heavenly sympathy;  
 Tis virtue sparkling in your eye!  
 Tears of humanity more grace the fair,  
 Than diamonds glitt'ring in their glossy hair.

Ye bright examples of the age,  
 Let soft humanity your thoughts engage;  
 Who love their country and their God,  
 Who wou'd escape Affliction's rod,  
 Who wish a lasting peace to gain,  
 Immortal honour to obtain,  
 Let them exert their utmost pow'r  
 To shield Misfortune in her trying hour!  
 Let streams of gen'rous bounty flow,  
 From Merit ward the impending blow;  
 Bid Industry uprear her languid head,  
 Save Innocence from want and dread;

Reward



Reward the dear, the faithful wife,  
Chear the sad mourner with returning life :  
Approving conscience shall your praises sing,  
To your own bosoms solid comforts bring.

*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see  
your good works, and glorify your Father who is  
in heaven.* Matthew, chap. 5. ver. 16.

*Verily, I say unto you, in as much as ye have done  
it unto one of the least of my brethren, ye have done it  
unto me.* Matthew, chap. 25. v. 40.

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# F O R M S

## FOR THE

### DEBTOR's Application to this SOCIETY for RELIEF.

EACH of the Goalers send to the Society, a *Monthly* List of Debtors who desire Relief, under the following heads :

Date of commitment ; — name ; — age ; — profession ; — number of family ; — late place of abode ; — sum sworn to by the plaintiff ; — for what the debt was contracted ; — plaintiff's name ; — plaintiff's address ; — and names of persons who will vouch for the debtor's character for sobriety, integrity, and industry.

Then the debtor receives *gratis* from the gaoler a copy of the following printed Petition :

*To the Right Honourable the PRESIDENT, the  
VICE-PRESIDENTS, and the other Members  
of the Society for the Discharge and Relief of  
Persons confined for Small Debts.*

The humble Petition of

late of

Parish of

in the County of

Street, in the

F

SHEWETH

SHEWETH,

**T**HAT your Petitioner is in the  
Year of his Age: by Profession a  
and hath \*

**T**HAT he was committed to this Prison of  
the  
Day of  
for a Debt of £. s. d. due to  
of Street, in the Parish of  
for †

which Debt the Plaintiff hath sworn to, and  
proceeded against your Petitioner to a ‡

**T**HAT it may require £. to obtain  
your Petitioner's Liberty, who having no Ef-

\* *Insert the Wife and Number of Children, if any.*

† *Insert what KIND of Value the Prisoner had of  
his Plaintiff for the Debt contracted.*

\* *Here mention the Declaration, Trial, or Judge-  
ment, as the Case may be.*

fects

THE DEBTORS. 75

fects or Power to discharge the said Debt, he most humbly prays to partake of your Bounty, in such way as to you may seem meet; and refers to


of  
Street, in the Parish of  
for a Character of his *Sobriety, Integrity, and Industry.*

N. B. Debtors who desire to partake of this Charity, must apply by PETITION ONLY; a printed Form of which may be had of their respective Keepers GRATIS.

*The blank Form must be filled up, with an exact Description of the Petitioner's Case, which must correspond with the Keeper's monthly List.*

*Petitions must be sent by the Penny Post, inclosed and directed*

To be put into the LETTER-Box, No. 7, in  
CRAVEN STREET, Strand.

 *An Attempt to impose on the SOCIETY in ANY Particular, will prevent the Petitioner being relieved by them.*

When



76      F O R M S   F O R ,   &c.

When the Society receive the Petition, it is inclosed in a copy of the following Letter, and sent to the Persons to whom the Petitioner refers for a character; which, if approved of, renders the Petitioner an object of the Society's Attention.

CRAVEN-STREET, Strand, the      of      177  
Society for the Discharge and Relief  
of Persons imprisoned for Small  
Debts.

S I R,

*confined in the  
of £.*

*a Prisoner  
for a Debt  
having sent the  
inclosed Petition to this Society for Relief, and re-  
ferred them to you for a Character; the Society  
request the Favour of a Line, with your Opinion  
of the Petitioner's Character for SOBRIETY,  
INTEGRITY, and INDUSTRY; and whether  
ther the other Assertions in the Petition are true.*

*Be pleased to write your Opinion on the back  
of this Letter, and return it by the Penny Post,  
with the Petition inclosed and directed*

To be put into the LETTER-Box, No. 7, in  
CRAVEN-STREET, Strand.

B E N E.

A  
L I S T  
O F  
GENERAL AND ANNUAL  
BENEFACTIONS.

*N. B. Those marked with a \* are annual Benefactors.*

			£.	s.	d.
ANONYMOUS —			1	1	0
An unknown Benefactor, by					
Mr. Hughes	—	—	100	0	0
A. B.	—	—	1	1	0
A. D.	—	—	5	5	0
A. B.	—	—	20	0	0
A. B.	—	—	5	5	0
A. B.	—	—	5	5	0
A Jew	—	—	1	1	0
Anonymous	—	—	5	5	0
Laurence Ashbourne, Esq;	—	—	5	5	0
A Lady unknown	—	—	2	2	0
A. P.	—	—	1	1	0
A. W.	—	—	2	2	0
A Person unknown	—	—	0	5	3
Anonymous	—	—	1	1	0
Carried over —			£. 155	19	3
G			A. Z		

# 82 BENEFACTIONS.

		£.	s.	d.
Brought over	—	155	19	3
Mr. Thomas Adderley	—	2	12	6
A. Nobleman, C. C.	—	10	10	0
A. B.	—	10	0	0
Anonymous, by Mr. Goff of Ipswich	—	1	1	0
Anonymous	—	1	1	0
Anonymous, subscribed, "from an Heart blessed with humanity"	—	5	5	0
A Clergyman	—	1	1	0
A. Z.	—	20	0	0
A. B.	—	5	5	0
A Person unknown	—	1	1	0
Anonymous	—	3	3	0
A. B. by Mr. Nelme	—	10	0	0
A. B.	—	2	2	0
A Lady, by the Hon. Mr. Walsing- ham	—	8	8	0
A. B.	—	1	1	0
A person unknown, by W. W.	—	20	0	0
A. B.	—	1	1	0
Mrs. A * * C	—	2	2	0
A. Z. his second Benefaction	—	20	0	0
A. K.	—	1	1	0
A. A.	—	2	2	0
Mrs. A. H.	—	2	2	0
A Lady unknown	—	1	1	0
A.	—	0	6	6
Carried over	—	£.288	5	3
		A Lady		

# BENEFACTIONS. 83

			<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
	Brought over	—	288	5	3
3	A. B.	—	5	5	0
6	A. B.	—	1	1	0
0	A Lady, by Messrs. Coutts	—	5	5	0
0	A. Z. his third Benefaction	—	20	0	0
0	A. B.	—	1	1	0
0	A Lady unknown	—	1	1	0
0	A Forfeit	—	2	2	0
0	A. B.	—	2	2	0
0	A Lady, by Mr. Minchin	—	5	5	0
0	A. B. by Messrs. Biddulph and Co.	—	2	2	0
0	A. B. by Mr. Willis	—	1	1	0
0	A. Z.	—	1	1	0
0	A young Clergyman	—	1	1	0
0	A. Z.	—	5	5	0
0	A. R.	—	1	1	0
0	A. R.	—	5	5	0
0	A. D.	—	3	3	0
0	A Lady unknown	—	1	1	0
0	A Lady by Mr. Crane	—	2	2	0
0	A. Z. his second Benefaction	—	1	1	0
0	Anonymous	—	5	5	0
0	A. B.	—	4	4	0
0	A Wager concerning the fate of Mr. Wilkes's Election to the Mayoral- ty, intended to have been spent at a Tavern	—	3	13	6
0	Carried over	—	£.368	12	9
0	G 2			A Friend	

# 84 B E N E F A C T I O N S.

	Brought over	—	£.	s.	d.
			368	12	9
A Friend of Lord Beauchamp's, (Vice President) by his Lordship			20	0	0
A Lady unknown, by J. T.	—	—	4	4	0
A. B. by Mr. Nelme, second Benefaction	—	—	10	0	0
A. B.	—	—	5	5	0
A. B.	—	—	10	10	0
A person in the Country, by J. V.			5	5	0
A. T. by Messrs. Dorrien	—	—	5	5	0
A. T. by Mr. Leacroft	—	—	2	2	0
A. B.	—	—	2	2	0
A. W.	—	—	5	5	0
A. the Overplus of a Tavern reckoning	—	—	0	12	9
Hon. Mr. Justice Aston	—	—	5	5	0
A. B.	—	—	1	1	0
A. Z. third Benefaction	—	—	1	1	0
* Mr. Thomas Adderley	—	—	2	2	0
* Mr. Cain Adams	—	—	2	2	0
			<hr/> £. 450 14 6 <hr/>		

## B.

Right Hon. Lord Beauchamp, Vice President	—	—	10	10	0
William Becher, Esq;	—	—	5	5	0
B. W.	—	—	10	6	
			<hr/>		
Carried over	—	—	£. 16	5	6
			William		



# BENEFACTIONS. 85

		£.	s.	d.
Brought over	—	£.16	5	6
William Bayntun, Esq;	—	5	5	0
Earl Breadalbane	—	5	5	0
Mr. Bridgeman	—	1	1	0
Messrs. Biddulph and Cocks	—	5	5	0
Hon. Mrs. Boscawen	—	2	2	0
Laurence Beauchamp, Esq;	—	1	1	0
John Barnard, Esq; —	—	5	5	0
John Boldero, Esq; —	—	5	5	0
Laurence Beauchamp, Esq; second	—	1	1	0
Sir Charles Bunbury	—	10	10	0
The Rev. F. Bacon	—	3	3	0
B. Y.	—	2	2	0
Mr. Barker, of Lyndon, Rutlandshire	—	5	5	0
B. second Benefaction under a different Signature	—	5	5	0
Isaac Hawkins Brown, Esq;	—	10	10	0
John Baller, Esq;	—	10	10	0
B. D. R. A.	—	10	10	0
B. K.	—	1	9	4
Earl of Buckinghamshire	—	21	0	0
Lieutenant Governor Boys	—	1	1	0
B. X.	—	10	6	
Miss Boyle, by the Hon. Mr. Walsingham	—	2	2	0
Earl Bristol	—	20	0	0
Mrs. Brere	—	1	1	0
Carried over	—	£.152	14	4
G 3			Mr.	

# 86 BENEFACTIONS.

	Brought over	—	£.	s.	d.
			152	14	4
Mr. Bullock	—	—	2	2	0
B. Y.	—	—	20	0	0
Lady Bradshaigh	—	—	1	1	0
Theodore H. Broadhead, Esq;	—	—	5	5	0
John Bond, Esq;	—	—	5	5	0
B. N.	—	—	1	1	0
Isaac Hawkins Browne, Esq; second					
Benefaction	—	—	5	5	0
B. Y.	—	—	10	10	0
John Boldero, Esq; second Benefac-					
tion	—	—	5	5	0
Rev. Mr. Birch of Handsworth	—	—	1	1	0
B. R. of Norwich, second Benefaction					
Earl of Buckinghamshire, second					
Benefaction	—	—	20	0	0
Theodore H. Broadhead, second					
Benefaction.	—	—	5	5	0
Thomas Boddington, Esq;	—	—	5	5	0
Hon. Mrs. Boscawen, second Bene-					
faction	—	—	5	5	0
B. A.	—	—	0	5	3
Mr. Burrell	—	—	3	3	0
* Richard Becher, Esq;	—	—	5	5	0
* Mr. Edward Bevan	—	—	2	2	0
* Mr. Samuel Briggs	—	—	2	2	0

£.259 2 7

C.

# BENEFACTIONS. 87

	C.	£.	s.	d.
The Archbishop of Canterbury —	—	20	0	0
Charlotte-Street and Bedford Cha- pels, Feb. 23, 1772. —	—	81	1	0
C. D. —	—	10	0	0
Lady Frances Coningsby —	—	10	10	0
Lady Edward Clive —	—	2	2	0
Rev Mr. Craven —	—	1	2	0
Miss C. —	—	1	1	0
C. B. —	—	1	1	0
C. M. —	—	5	5	0
C. P. G. —	—	3	3	0
Sir Robert Clayton —	—	1	1	0
Lady Clayton —	—	2	2	0
C. W. —	—	1	1	0
C. S. N. —	—	3	3	0
Lady Frances Coningsby, second Benefaction —	—	10	10	0
C. E. —	—	10	0	0
Rev. Mr. Canning —	—	0	10	6
Mrs. C. M. —	—	5	5	0
C. E. —	—	5	5	0
George Colman, Esq; —	—	10	10	0
C. B. —	—	2	2	0
Rev. Mr. Craven, second Benefaction —	—	2	2	0
Francis Caryl, Esq; —	—	2	2	0
Carried over —	—	£.190	18	6
		Mr.		

# 88 BENEFACTIONS.

			£.	s.	d.
Brought over	—	—	190	18	6
Mr. Noah Clye	—	—	2	2	0
Charlotte Street Chapel, 1773			31	9	0
Rev. Mr. Philip Cocks	—	—	1	1	0
C. M.	—	—	1	1	0
John Crewe, Esq; of Bolfworth,					
Cheshire	—	—	5	5	0
C. T.	—	—	2	2	0
Francis Caryl, Esq; second Bene-					
faction	—	—	2	2	0
George Colman, Esq; second Bene-					
faction	—	—	20	0	0
Mr. Noah Clye, second Benefaction			2	2	0
C. M.	—	—	10	10	0
The Archbishop of Canterbury, se-					
cond Benefaction	—	—	10	0	0
Char. San.	—	—	5	5	0
* Rev. Doctor Cockayne	—	—	2	2	0
			<hr/> £.285 19 6 <hr/>		

D.

The Duke of Devonshire	—	—	10	10	0
John Delmé, Esq.	—	—	5	5	0
John Delmé, Esq; second Bene-					
faction	—	—	31	10	0
Mr. R. Dixon	—	—	0	10	6
Carried over	—	—	<hr/> £.47 15 6 <hr/>		
			Mr.		

# BENEFACTIONS. 89

			£.	s.	d.
Brought over	—		47	15	6
Mr. Du Bellamy	—	—	1	1	0
D. H.	—	—	1	1	0
Deborah	—	—	20	0	0
D. C.	—	—	3	3	0
D. H. second Benefaction	—	—	1	1	0
D. S.	—	—	2	2	0
D. W.	—	—	3	3	0
Baron Dimisdale	—	—	10	10	0
D. E.	—	—	2	2	0
D. B.	—	—	2	2	0
D. W.	—	—	5	5	0
D. H. third Benefaction	—	—	3	3	0
Mr. John Darker	—	—	5	5	0
Rev. Doctor Dickens	—	—	2	2	0
D. C. second Benefaction	—	—	2	2	0
D. C. third Benefaction	—	—	3	3	0
* Rev. Dr. Dodd	—	—	2	2	0
* Mr. Richard Dixon, second Benefaction	—	—	2	2	0
* Mr. Benjamin Dorsett	—	—	2	2	0
* Rev. Richard Dodd	—	—	2	2	0
			£.123	18	6
	E.				
The Dean of Exeter	—	—	5	5	0
Sidney Evelyn, M. L. of Upton	—	—			
Grey, Hants	—	—	6	6	0
			£.11	11	0
Carried over	—	—			
			E. W.		



90 BENEFACTIONS.

Brought over		£.	s.	d.
		11	11	0
E. W.	—	2	2	0
Mr. Joseph Edwards	—	2	2	0
Mr. Evans	—	2	2	0
The Provost of Eton	—	5	5	0
Mr. E. M. H.	—	5	5	0
E. L.	—	2	2	0
E. I.	—	1	1	0
E**n	—	25	0	0
E. V. M.	—	1	1	0
E. J.	—	3	3	0
E. T.	—	1	1	0
E. W.	—	2	2	0
E. W.	—	5	5	0
E. N.	—	2	2	0
E. H.	—	5	5	0
E. Z. C.	—	5	5	0
E. T.	—	1	1	0
Mr. Elwell	—	0	10	6
E. P.	—	1	1	0
		£.84	6	6
F.				
Lord Folkestone	—	5	5	0
Lady Mary Fitzgerald	—	5	5	0
Mr. J. Flower	—	0	10	6
F. T.	—	1	1	0
Mrs. F. R.	—	1	1	0
Carried over		£.13	2	6
		F. S.		

# BENEFACTIONS. 91

			£.	s.	d.
Brought over	—		13	2	6
F. S. second Benefaction, under another Signature	—		1	1	0
Fine from a Hackney Coachman	—		0	5	0
F. S.	—	—	2	2	0
F. T.	—	—	1	1	0
F. R. S.	—	—	5	5	0
F. C.	—	—	1	1	0
F. A.	—	—	1	1	0
F. E.	—	—	3	3	0
F. M.	—	—	1	1	0
T. E. Freeman, Esq;	—	—	5	5	0
F. G.	—	—	1	1	0
F. C.	—	—	1	1	0
John Forster, Esq;	—	—	5	5	0
F. R. S. second Benefaction	—	—	5	5	0
Fine from a Hackney Coachman, by S. P.	—	—	0	5	0
Mr. Walter Fletcher	—	—	5	5	0
Thomas Fairfax, Esq; of Tadcaster			10	0	0
Mr. John Francis, Birmingham	—	—	1	1	0
The Stewards of the late grand Feast of FREE and Accepted Masters, being the Ballance of the Treasurer's Accounts	—	—	4	4	0
Fine from a Hackney Coachman			0	5	0
F. R. S. third Benefaction	—	—	5	5	0
F. R. S. fourth Benefaction	—	—	5	5	0
F. G. Esq;	—	—	1	1	0
Carried over	—		£.79	10	6
			F. R.		

92 BENEFACTIONS.

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over —	79	10	6
F. R. S. fifth Benefaction —	5	5	0
* William Fuller, Esq; —	2	2	0
	<u>£.86</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>6</u>
G.			
Earl Guildford, first Benefaction —	10	10	0
Sir John Griffin Griffin, Bart —	20	0	0
Sir Sampson Gideon, Bart. —	20	0	0
G. N. of Chelsea —	2	2	0
Mr. John Goff, of Ipswich —	1	1	0
Mrs. Hester Greville —	3	3	0
G. E. —	3	3	0
G. G. —	2	2	0
Lady Griffin, —	2	2	0
G. H. —	1	1	0
William Gardiner, Esq; —	10	10	0
Robert Gosling, Esq; —	2	0	0
Grand Jury for the City and Liberty of Westminster —	5	5	0
G. P. —	2	2	0
G. S. —	0	10	6
Mr. G. Grieve —	1	1	0
G. E. by Mr. Neild —	3	3	0
G. A —	3	3	0
G. I. T —	3	3	0
G. G. —	2	2	0
Mr. Greville —	3	3	0
G. I. T. second Benefaction —	5	5	0
Carried over —	106	13	6

Sh

# BENEFACTIONS. 93

			£.	s.	d.
Brought over	—		106	13	6
Sir Sampson Gideon, Bart. second Bene-					
faction	—	—	5	5	0
G. D.	—	—	7	7	0
Gentleman by Mr. Hoskins	—	—	1	1	0
Mrs. M. Goff, of Ipswich	—	—	1	1	0
G. S. B. second Benefaction	—	—	2	2	0
G. G.	—	—	2	2	0
Earl Guildford, second Benefaction			10	10	0

£.136 1 6

H.

Earl Hertford	—	—	30	0	0
Earl Hardwicke	—	—	10	10	0
Henry Hoare, Esq; and Co.	—	—	21	0	0
Henry Hawley, Esq;	—	—	5	5	0
James Haughton, Esq;	—	—	10	10	0
Mrs. Harenc	—	—	1	1	0
Mrs. Marianne Hayes	—	—	1	1	0
H.	—	—	0	10	6
Homo	—	—	1	1	0
Mr. and Mrs. H.	—	—	3	3	0
Miss Hockley	—	—	5	5	0
H. H. Junior	—	—	5	5	0
H. Z.	—	—	1	1	0
H. R.	—	—	5	5	0

Carried over — £.100 17 6

H

Rev.

# 94 BENEFACTIONS.

			£.	s.	d.
	Brought over	—	100	17	6
Rev. Mr. Hewett	—	—	1	1	0
H. P.	—	—	1	1	0
Humanus	—	—	1	1	0
J. Zephaniah Holwell, Esq;	—	—	50	0	0
H. A.	—	—	20	0	0
Rev. Mr. Hankey	—	—	1	1	0
H. M.	—	—	10	10	0
Rev. Mr. Holcombe	—	—	2	2	0
Mr. A. Humphreys	—	—	0	10	6
H. R.	—	—	5	5	0
Mr. Hudson, an Acknowledgment for an Assault on him	—	—	0	10	6
Mr. and Mrs. H. second benefaction			3	3	0
H. K.	—	—	5	5	0
* Isaac Hawkins, Esq;	—	—	5	5	0
* Mr. Thomas Hull	—	—	2	2	0
Dr. Hill, Bayswater	—	—	2	2	0
* Mr. Lowen Hoad	—	—	2	2	0
* Rev. Mr. Hankey	—	—	1	1	0
— Heighway, Esq;	—	—	5	5	0
			£.220	4	6
	I.				
I. M. Esq;	—	—	1	1	0
I. B.	—	—	100	0	0
Mrs. Jebb	—	—	2	2	0
I. F.	—	—	0	10	6
Carried over	—	—	£.103	13	6
				I. R.	



# BENEFACTIONS. 95

			£.	s.	d.
	Brought over	—	103	13	6
I. R.	—	—	0	10	6
Henry Johnson, Esq;	—	—	2	2	0
I. B.	—	—	2	2	0
I. W.	—	—	1	1	0
I. B. first Benefaction	—	—	3	3	0
I. L.	—	—	2	2	0
I. W.	—	—	5	5	0
I. W.	—	—	2	2	0
I. I. A.	—	—	1	1	0
I. H.	—	—	1	1	0
I. Y.	—	—	2	2	0
I. R.	—	—	10	0	0
I. W.	—	—	1	1	0
I. F.	—	—	3	3	0
I. B. second Benefaction	—	—	3	3	0
Mr. I. R.	—	—	2	2	0
I. R.	—	—	0	10	6
I. B.	—	—	1	1	0
I. B.	—	—	1	1	0
I. I. first Benefaction	—	—	0	10	6
I. B. M.	—	—	5	5	0
I. F. B.	—	—	5	5	0
I. P.	—	—	3	10	0
I. W.	—	—	5	5	0
I. F. P.	—	—	1	1	0
Mr. Joseph Jones	—	—	2	2	0
I. H.	—	—	1	1	0
I. M. Esq; second Benefaction	—	—	1	1	0
Carried over	—	—	£. 173	7	0
	H 2			Mr.	

# 96 BENEFACTIONS.

		£.	s.	d.
Brought over		173	7	0
Mr. William Jones	—	0	10	6
I. A. W. first Benefaction	—	1	1	0
I. W.	—	1	1	0
I. N. Norwich	—	1	1	0
I R.	—	1	1	0
I. D.	—	2	2	0
J. I. second Benefaction	—	0	10	6
I. N. of Norwich, second Benefaction, by B. R.	—	1	1	0
I. F. B.	—	5	5	0
I. D. from the Country	—	4	4	0
I. H.	—	1	1	0
Rev. Dr. Ibbetson	—	2	2	0
I. A. W. second Benefaction	—	4	4	0
I. A. H.	—	3	3	0
I. B. third Benefaction	—	3	3	0
I. S.	—	1	1	0
I. F. second Benefaction	—	3	3	0
I. S.	—	0	10	6
		£.209 11 6		
K.				
Lord King	—	10	0	0
Lord King, second Benefaction	—	10	0	0
K. H.	—	1	1	0
* Richard Kelfall, Esq;	—	3	3	0
* Mr. Alexander Kilgour	—	2	2	0
		£ 26 6 8		

# BENEFACTIONS. 97

L.

	£.	s.	d.
The Bishop of London	10	10	0
Peter Leheup, jun. Esq;	100	0	0
Miss Lockart	2	2	0
London Exchange Banking Com- pany, St. James's Street	10	10	0
L. S. C.	2	2	0
The old Club at Le Tellieurs, in Half-Moon-Street, Piccadilly	22	1	0
The Bishop of Landaff	5	5	0
L. M.	10	10	0
L. I. C.	10	10	0
Lazzaroni Club, at the Thatch'd- House Tavern, by their President T. G. Fothergill, Esq;	37	16	0
L. V. S.	0	5	3
London Coffee-house	10	0	0
L. G.	1	1	0
Mr. Sampson Lloyd, of Birmingham	1	1	0
L. C.	1	1	0
Lady unknown	1	1	0
L. A. R.	20	0	0
L. N.	1	1	0
* London Exchange Banking Com- pany, second Benefaction	5	5	0
* Mr. S. L.	2	2	0
* Messrs. Lowry, Newton, and Co.	3	3	0
* Baker John Littlehales, Esq;	2	2	0

£. 259 8 3

H 3

M. L

# 98 BENEFACTIONS.

M.

			£.	s.	d.
Lord Maynard —	_____	_____	21	0	0
* Sir Sydney Meadows	_____	_____	50	0	0
M. L. _____	_____	_____	5	5	0
M. H. _____	_____	_____	1	1	0
M. L. _____	_____	_____	1	1	0
M. C. _____	_____	_____	0	10	6
Hon John Molefworth	_____	_____	5	5	0
M. T. first Benefaction	_____	_____	5	5	0
Lady Milner —	_____	_____	2	2	0
M. F. _____	_____	_____	1	1	0
Mrs. M. H. second Benefaction —	_____	_____	2	2	0
M. C. _____	_____	_____	2	2	0
Mrs. Ann Myles	_____	_____	1	11	6
M. H. by Mr. Turner	_____	_____	2	2	0
M. C. _____	_____	_____	2	2	0
M. S. _____	_____	_____	2	2	0
M. T. _____	_____	_____	1	1	0
M. E. M. —	_____	_____	1	1	0
Sir Horatio Mann, Bart.	_____	_____	5	5	0
Hon. Walter Molefworth	_____	_____	10	0	0
M. T. _____	_____	_____	1	1	0
M. F. _____	_____	_____	1	1	0
Mrs. Mawhood	_____	_____	2	2	0
Rev. Mr. Mafon, by Mr. Horsefield	_____	_____	21	0	0
M. Z. C. _____	_____	_____	3	3	0
M. P. _____	_____	_____	1	1	0
M. D. Berks —	_____	_____	2	2	0

Carried over —

£.153 9 0  
M P.

# BENEFACTIONS. 99

			£.	s.	d.
Brought over	—		153	9	0
M. P.	—	—	5	5	0
Miss M. F.	—	—	25	0	0
M. E. third Benefaction	—	—	5	5	0
M. W. O.	—	—	2	2	0
M. T. second Benefaction	—	—	5	5	0
M. K. E.	—	—	1	1	0
* Hon. Mrs. Marsham	—	—	3	3	0
* Hon. Charles Marsham	—	—	3	3	0
* Thomas Marson, Esq;	—	—	3	3	0
* Mr. William Miller	—	—	2	2	0
* Dr. Manningham	—	—	3	3	0
* James Mitchel, Esq;	—	—	2	2	0
			£.214	3	0

## N.

* Hon. Mr. Justice Nares, Vice Pre-					
sident	—	—	5	5	0
Dutcheſs of Northumberland	—	—	20	0	0
N. E.	—	—	3	3	0
Noah, Daniel, and Job	—	—	3	9	0
James Norman, Esq;	—	—	10	0	0
Robert Nettleton, Esq;	—	—	10	10	0
N. N.	—	—	3	3	0
Nash, Eddowes, and Patrie	—	—	10	10	0
Mr. Edward Neale	—	—	2	12	6
N. G.	—	—	3	3	0
Noah, Daniel, and Job, second Be-					
nefaction	—	—	3	3	0
Carried over	—	—	£.74	18	6
				N. E.	



# 100 BENEFACTIONS.

	Brought over	—	£.	s.	d.
			74	18	6
N. E.	—	—	3	3	0
N. M.	—	—	1	1	0
No. 15,157, a Ticket in Mr. Cox's Museum Lottery, sent by a Gen- tleman unknown, the value whereof cannot be ascertained					
N. H. by Mr. Briggs	—	—	1	1	0
Noah, Daniel, and Job, third Bene- faction	—	—	2	2	0
N. N. second Benefaction	—	—	3	3	0
N. N. second Benefaction	—	—	5	5	0
* Mr. William Neild	—	—	2	2	0
* Mr. L. D. Nelme	—	—	2	2	0
* Mr. James Neild	—	—	2	2	0
* Rev. William Nowell	—	—	2	2	0
* Mr. Francis Newbury, jun.	—	—	2	2	0
			<hr/> £ 101 3 6 <hr/>		
O.					
* Lord Orwell	—	—	5	5	0
O. A. L. S. S. D.	—	—	25	4	0
O. B.	—	—	1	1	0
Mrs. Ord	—	—	1	1	0
			<hr/> £. 32 11 0 <hr/>		
P.					
The Bishop of Peterborough	—	—	5	5	0
Philanthropos	—	—	1	1	0
			<hr/> £ 6 6 0 <hr/>		
Carried over			—		
			£ 6 6 0		
P. G.					

# BENEFACTIONS. 101

			£.	s.	d.
Brought over	—	—	6	6	0
P. G.	—	—	10	0	0
P. F.	—	—	10	0	0
Lord Pigot	—	—	1	1	0
Ph. B.	—	—	20	0	0
Mr. I. Paroissien	—	—	0	10	6
Mr. Parish	—	—	1	1	0
P. P.	—	—	2	2	0
Honourable Miss Poyntz	—	—	1	1	0
Pantheon, by Messrs. Scotney and Donnellan	—	—	50	0	0
P. D.	—	—	3	3	0
P. K.	—	—	1	1	0
Mr. James Preston	—	—	2	2	0
Onesiphorus Paul, Esq;	—	—	3	3	0
P. C.	—	—	10	10	●
Mr. T. Pellot	—	—	1	1	0
Mr. Pickering	—	—	2	2	0
Mr. Parish, of Ipswich, second Bene- faction	—	—	2	2	0
Proprietors of Covent-Garden Theatre by a Benefit Play	—	—	102	13	0
* John Preston, Esq; —	—	—	3	3	0
* Mr. Christopher Pinchbeck	—	—	2	2	0
* Mr. John Phillips —	—	—	2	2	0
			£.237	5	6

Right

# 102 B E N E F A C T I O N S.

R.

	£.	s.	d.
* Right Hon. Lord Romney, President	5	5	0
Earl Radnor	5	5	0
Mrs. Rich	2	2	0
R. T. second Benefaction, but under a different Signature	2	2	0
Mr. R. D. second Benefaction	1	1	0
Earl Radnor, second Benefaction	5	5	0
Countess of Radnor	5	5	0
R. H.	10	0	0
R. M.	2	2	0
R. P.	2	2	0
R. P.	2	2	0
R. C.	3	3	0
R. D.	1	1	0
Mrs. R. B.	15	0	0
The Executors of the late Mr. Daniel Remy, of Newport Court, St. Ann's, Westminster,	100	0	0
R. A.	1	1	0
Rev. J. D.	2	2	0
R. H.	10	10	0
R. B. H.	1	1	0
R. Mm.	1	1	0
Rural	2	2	0
R. J.	1	1	0
R. F. Esq; by Mr. Sanxay	3	3	0
Carried over	£.183	16	0
		Earl	

# BENEFACTIONS. 103

		£.	s.	d.
Brought over	—	183	16	0
Earl Radnor, third Benefaction	—	10	10	0
R. E. Esq;	—	5	0	0
R. Mm. second Benefaction	—	1	1	0
R. T.	—	1	1	0
* Mr. Ruspini	—	2	2	0
* Mr. Thomas Raikes	—	2	2	0
		<u>£.205</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>0</u>

S.

* Right Hon. Lord Chief Baron				
Smythe, Vice Prefident	—	5	5	0
* Earl Stamford	—	10	10	0
Earl Stanhope	—	21	0	0
Sundries, by Mr. Steuart	—	0	10	6
Lady Smythe	—	2	2	0
Richard Salloway, Esq; first Bene-				
faction	—	5	5	0
S. D. M.	—	1	1	0
S. C.	—	0	10	6
S. P. G.	—	5	5	0
S. B.	—	3	3	0
Lord Chief Baron Smythe, Vice Pre-				
fident, second Benefaction	—	5	5	0
Lady Smythe, second Benefaction		2	2	0
Mifs Stuffit	—	1	1	0
Carried over	—	<u>£.63</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
			S. A.	

# 104 B E N E F A C T I O N S.

			£.	s.	d.
	Brought over	—	63	0	0
S. A.	—	—	1	1	0
S. E.	—	—	1	1	0
S. G.	—	—	1	1	0
Mr. Robert Sanxay	—	—	2	2	0
S. M.	—	—	3	3	0
S. R.	—	—	2	2	0
Lord Sondes	—	—	10	10	0
Lady Sondes	—	—	5	15	0
S. B.	—	—	3	3	0
S. R.	—	—	2	2	0
Society of Gentlemen meeting at the George and Vulture Tavern in Cornhill, by Mr. Rutt			—	21	0 0
Mr. S. — e	—	—	5	5	0
S. G.	—	—	1	1	0
* Richard Salloway, Esq; second Benefaction			—	5	5 0
Captain S. D.	—	—	1	1	0
Sundry Gentlemen, by A. B.			—	31	10 0
S. B.	—	—	1	1	0
S. C.	—	—	5	5	0
S. W.	—	—	5	5	0
S. B.	—	—	2	2	0
S. P.	—	—	1	1	0
Mr John Sage	—	—	10	10	0
Carried over	—	—	£.185	6	0
					Mr.



# BENEFACTIONS. 105

		£.	s.	d.
Brought over	—	185	6	0
Mr. John Simms	—	2	2	0
— Simpson, Esq; by Mr. Sanxay	—	5	5	0
The old Thursday's Club at the St.				
Albans Tavern	—	17	17	0
Mr. Timothy Smith, Birmingham	—	1	1	0
S. P. S.	—	0	10	6
S. W.	—	2	2	0
Francis Schutz, Esq;	—	1	1	0
John Speaker, Esq;	—	100	0	0
Sundry Gentlemen from Ipswich	—	4	16	0
Sympathy	—	2	2	0
John Simms, Esq; second Benefaction	—	2	2	0
S. M.	—	2	2	0
Francis Schutz, Esq; third Bene- faction	—	2	2	0
S. M. second Benefaction	—	3	3	0
* Mr. Charles Steuart	—	2	2	0
* Mr. Daniel Sutton	—	2	2	0
		<u>£.335</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>6</u>

T.

John Thornton, Esq; Vice-President, first Benefaction	—	20	0	0
R Thompson, Esq;	—	1	1	0
Two Gentlemen	—	2	2	0
Three Ladies and one Gentleman	—	4	4	0
Mr. Townsend	—	1	1	0
		<u>£.28</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>
Carried over	—			
I			T. C.	

# 106 BENEFACTIONS.

		£.	s.	d.
Brought over	—	28	8	0
T. C.	—	2	2	0
Hon. Mrs. Trevor	—	3	3	0
T. P.	—	0	10	6
T. T.	—	1	1	0
John Thornton, Esq; Vice-President, second Benefaction	—	20	0	0
John Thornton, Esq; Vice-President third Benefaction	—	20	0	0
T. C***n	—	5	5	0
Robert Thompson, Esq; third Bene- faction, under different signatures	—	2	2	0
John Thornton, Esq; Vice President, fourth Benefaction, being the Mo- ney returned from his Subscrip- tion to the Plan for reducing the Price of Butchers Meat	—	7	0	0
Mr. Alderman Trecothick	—	10	10	0
T. C.	—	1	1	0
Mrs. Anna Maria Tracy	—	5	5	0
T. T.	—	5	5	0
T. A.	—	2	2	0
Mrs. T. Y. second Benefaction, under a different signature	—	1	1	0
T. T.	—	2	2	0
Samuel Thornton, Esq; Clapham	—	20	0	0
T. C. second Benefaction	—	3	3	0
T. R.	—	5	5	0
Carried over	—	£.145	5	6
			T. R.	

# BENEFACCTIONS. 107

		£.	s.	d.
Brought over	—	145	5	6
T. R.	—	5	5	0
Ten of the Exchequer Jurors, by M. D.	—	3	3	0
T. P. Esq; first Benefaction	—	17	12	6
T. C. third Benefaction from a Card Party	—	3	3	0
Robert and Henry Thornton, Esqs.	—	10	10	0
T. P. Esq; second Benefaction	—	6	6	0
T. P. Esq; third Benefaction	—	2	2	0
* Sam. Thornton, Esq; 2d benefaction	—	5	5	0
* Robert Thompson, Esq;	—	5	5	0
* Benjamin Thomas, Esq;	—	3	3	0
* John Thornton, Esq; Vice-President, fifth Benefaction	—	5	5	0

£. 212 5 0

U.

Lord Vere	—	5	5	0
James Vere, Esq;	—	3	3	0
Unknown	—	5	5	0
Unknown	—	1	1	0
Unknown	—	2	2	0
Unknown	—	1	1	0
Unknown	—	1	1	0
V. F.	—	5	5	0
Unknown, second Benefaction	—	6	6	0
Unknown	—	5	5	0
Unknown	—	5	5	0
Unknown, third Benefaction	—	3	3	0
Unknown, from Bath	—	1	1	0

Carried over — £. 45 3 0  
I 2 Unknown

# 108 B E N E F A C T I O N S.

		£.	s.	d.
Brought over	—	45	3	0
Unknown, by Mr. Neild	—	2	2	0
Unknown	—	2	2	0
Unknown	—	0	5	3
Robert Udney, Esq;	—	5	5	0
Unknown	—	2	2	0
Unknown, various small sums	—	55	19	10
Unknown, by C. Van Mildert	—	2	2	0
Unknown, third Benefaction, by Mr.				
Leacroft	—	7	7	0
Unknown	—	5	0	0
Unknown, second Benefaction	—	1	1	0
Unknown, fourth Benefaction	—	7	7	0
Unknown, by Dr. Harwood	—	5	0	0
Mr. James Unsworth	—	2	2	0

£.142 18 1

W.

The Bishop of Winchester	—	10	10	0
W. L.	—	2	2	0
W. P.	—	5	5	0
Mr. Wilford	—	1	1	0
Mrs. White	—	1	1	0
Mrs. Wheeler	—	5	5	0
W. H.	—	1	1	0
Lord Willoughby de Broke	—	5	5	0
Lady Windfor	—	10	10	0
W. H.	—	5	5	0
W. K.	—	2	2	0

Carried over — £.49 7 0  
Right

# BENEFACCTIONS. 109

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over —	49	7	0
Right Hon. Lady Laura Waldegrave	21	1	0
W. C. — — — — —	1	1	0
John Whiston, Esq; — — — — —	4	4	0
William Wilson, Esq; — — — — —	20	0	0
Mr. William Watson — — — — —	3	3	0
W. P. second Benefaction — — — — —	2	2	0
W. W. — — — — —	2	2	0
Honourable Mr. Walsingham, being a Legacy left by Lady Osborne	208	0	0
W. N. — — — — —	10	10	0
W. W. — — — — —	10	10	0
W. A. — — — — —	10	10	0
W. W. — — — — —	5	5	0
Rev. Sherlock Willis — — — — —	5	5	0
W. B. Esq; first Benefaction — — — — —	21	0	0
Rev. Anthony Webster — — — — —	1	1	0
Mr. Windham — — — — —	1	1	0
W. W. by James Mathias, Esq; — — — — —	50	0	0
W. D. — — — — —	1	1	0
W. W. second Benefaction, by James Mathias, Esq; — — — — —	50	0	0
Honourable Mr. Justice Willes — — — — —	5	5	0
W. M. — — — — —	1	1	0
W. W. third Benefaction, by James Mathias Esq; — — — — —	50	0	0
W. B. Esq; second Benefaction — — — — —	20	0	0
W. G. from the Dog — — — — —	1	1	0
Mr. Wilford, second Benefaction — — — — —	1	1	0
Carried over — — — — —	£555	11	0



# NO BENEFACCTIONS.

		£.	s.	d.
Brought over	—	555	11	0
W. H. second Benefaction	—	5	5	0
W. W. second Benefaction	—	20	0	0
W. S.	—	1	1	0
* Mr. James Willis	—	2	2	0
* Mr. Thomas Williamson	—	2	2	0
* Mr. Thomas Wright	—	2	2	0

£.588 3 0

X.

X. Y.	—	1	1	0
X. T.	—	2	2	0
Mr. Ximenes	—	1	1	0
X. Y. from Bath	—	1	1	0
X. Y.	—	1	1	0
X. A.	—	3	3	0
X. T. second Benefaction	—	2	2	0

£.11 11 0

Y.

The Archbishop of York	—	10	0	0
Hon. Dowager Lady Young	—	20	0	0
Hon. Mr. Yorke	—	10	0	0
Hon. Mr. Yorke, second Benefaction	—	10	0	0
Y. Z.	—	1	1	0
Hon. Dowager Lady Young, second Benefaction	—	20	0	0
Y. Y. Y.	—	5	5	0

£.76 6 0

Z. Z. Z.

# BENEFACTIONS. III

	Z.		£.	s.	d.
Z. Z. Z.	—	—	10	10	0
Z. Z.	—	—	1	1	0
			<hr/>		
			£.11	11	0
			<hr/>		

Total £.4295 10s. 8d.

N. B. The foregoing Account stated, according to the Times when the Money was received, and Debtors discharged.

# 112 Dr. General Account of RECEIPTS, —

1772.		£.	s.	d.
Feb. 23.	To the Collection at Char-			
	lotte and Bedford Chapels,	81	1	0
May 27.	To Weekly Benefactions,	326	12	0
Aug. 12.	To ditto, — — —	194	5	6
Nov. 25.	To ditto, — — —	131	13	3
Dec. 30.	To ditto, — — —	287	7	0
1773.				
March 31.	To ditto, — — —	1606	13	1
June 30.	To ditto, — — —	562	2	4
Sept. 29.	To ditto, — — —	328	7	6
Dec. 31.	To ditto, — — —	636	15	0
		<u>4154</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>8</u>
Sundry Annual Benefactions, in the				
Treasurers Hands, — — —		140	14	0
		<u>£.4295</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>

The above Ballance consists of				
The Ballance of the Annual Benefac-				
tions,	—	—	140	14 0
The Ballance of the Weekly Benefac-				
tions,	—	—	4	7 3
			<u>£.145</u>	<u>1 3</u>

— *And* DISBURSEMENTS. Cr. 113

1772.	Debtors. Wives. Child.			£.	s.	d.
March 11. By the discharge of	34	—	—	81	1	0
May 27. By ditto	81	50	147	222	16	2
Aug. 12. By ditto	121	68	131	292	12	10
Nov. 25. By ditto	58	32	94	141	18	3
Dec. 31. By ditto	118	68	177	235	0	11
1773.						
March 31. By ditto	472	324	837	1677	10	5
June 30. By ditto	225	165	471	540	1	10
Sept. 30. By ditto	159	97	263	356	5	7
Dec. 31. By ditto	262	155	497	603	2	5
	1530	959	2617	4150	9	5
Ballance	—	—	—	145	1	3
				£.4295	10	8

Stated, examined, and approved this Account, the Ballance remaining in hand being One Hundred and Forty-five Pounds, One Shilling and Three-pence, the 12th of January, 1774.

ROMNEY, G. NARES,  
BEAUCHAMP, JOHN THORNTON.

WILLIAM DODD,	W. BUTLER,
THO. ADDERLEY,	JAMES NEILD,
THO. HAMMERSLEY,	CAIN ADAMS,
ALEX. KILGOUR,	SAMUEL BRIGGS.

WILLIAM NEILD, Treasurer.

L. D. NELME, Secretary.

N. B. *The Sum expended as above, amounts to about 2l. 14s. 3d. for each family, and only 16s. 3d. to each Individual, at an Average, including every Expence incidental to the Charity.*

The





## A D D E N D A.

			£.	s.	d.
A.	B.	—	3	3	0
	I. B.	—	0	15	9
T. C.	—	—	1	1	0
Peter Hodgson, Esq;	—	—	5	5	0
* Sir Sidney Medows, 2d Benefaction	—	—	50	0	0
R. I. I.	—	—	5	5	0
E. T.	—	—	1	1	0
Mrs. Mawhood, second Benefaction	—	—	3	3	0
* Lord Romney, Benefaction	—	—	5	5	0
* Mrs. Leigh	—	—	2	2	0
* Honourable Mrs. Marsham	—	—	3	3	0
* Honourable Mr. Marsham	—	—	3	3	0
* Honourable Ch. Bouverie	—	—	3	3	0
* Lord Orwell	—	—	5	5	0
* Rd. Salloway, Esq.	—	—	5	5	0
* Henry Busby, Esq.	—	—	2	2	0
Rev. Mr. Lindeman, collected at St.					
Mary Sommerfet	—	—	8	3	0
R. R.	—	—	3	3	0
F. T.	—	—	1	1	0
H. H.	—	—	1	1	0
A. B.	—	—	10	0	0
T. P. Esq; fourth Benefaction	—	—	25	0	0
* Messrs. Biddulph and Cocks	—	—	3	3	0
Carried over	—	—	£.150	12	9
					* C. T.

# 116 BENEFACTIONS.

	Brought over	—	£.	s.	d.
			150	12	9
* C. T. by ditto	—	—	2	2	0
W.	—	—	7	7	0
* James Mitchel, Esq;	—	—	2	2	0
W. W.	—	—	2	2	0
H. L.	—	—	2	2	0
H. M.	—	—	2	2	0
Peter Du Cane, Esq;	—	—	5	5	0
J. G. by Robert Child, Esq;	—	—	20	0	0
J. A. W. third Benefaction	—	—	2	2	0
U. F.	—	—	3	3	0
Unknown	—	—	10	10	0
Mr. James Preston, 2d Benefaction	—	—	2	2	0
W. W. V.	—	—	5	5	0
Earl Hardwicke, second Benefaction	—	—	10	10	0
F. C.	—	—	1	1	0
Sam. Watfon, Esq;	—	—	10	10	0
X. Y.	—	—	1	1	0
Deborah, by Mr. Winterbottom, second Benefaction	—	—	30	0	0
Z. Z. Z. third Benefaction	—	—	10	10	0
Lady G.	—	—	5	5	0
I. P.	—	—	0	2	6
A. B.	—	—	5	5	0
I. H.	—	—	2	2	0
W. F. M.	—	—	5	5	0
M. F. second Benefaction	—	—	10	0	0
H. Z.	—	—	1	1	0
Bishop of London, second Benefaction	—	—	10	0	0
Carried over	—	—	£.319	9	3
				Mr.	

# BENEFACTIONS. 117

			£.	s.	d.
	Brought over	—	319	9	3
	Mr. Charles Ellis, of Almack's, Pall-				
	Mall, being Part of Damages he				
	recovered by a Suit at Law for				
	Defamation	—	50	0	0
	I. P.	—	20	0	0
	I. W. second Benefaction	—	5	5	0
	W. W. by James Mathias, Esq; fourth				
	Benefaction	—	50	0	0
	A. Z. C.	—	3	3	0
	I. I. Birmingham, third Benefaction		0	10	6
	A. B.	—	0	10	6
	I. H.	—	0	10	6
	H. M.	—	6	6	0
	Mrs. Willdon, part of a Legacy,	—	1	4	0
	F. A.	—	1	1	0
	T. R.	—	3	3	0
	E. S.	—	2	2	0
	Dr. Hawley	—	10	10	0
	Ph. B. second Benefaction	—	20	0	0
	X. X.	—	2	2	0
	T. C.	—	3	3	0
	Wm. Gardiner, Esq; second Benefac-				
	tion	—	10	10	0
	A. Z. fourth Benefaction	—	1	1	0
	Mrs. Haye, second Benefaction	—	2	2	0
	Peter Turquand, Esq; part of a Fine				
	from Custom-house Officers for				
	an illegal Seizure	—	4	4	0
	Carried over	—	£.516	16	9
	K				* I. E.

# 118 B E N E F A C T I O N S.

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over —	516	16	9
Rev. Tho. Adam, of Wintringham	5	5	0
Hon. Mrs. F. —	20	0	0
* I. E. second Benefaction, at Messrs.			
Hoare and Co. —	3	3	0
E. C. second Benefaction —	10	0	0
London Coffee-house, second Benefaction —	3	19	9
Rev. Dr. Francklin, collected at			
' Queen's Street Chapel —	36	13	7
Earl of Radnor, fourth Benefaction	10	10	0
Dean of Exeter, second Benefaction	5	5	0
T. P. Esq; fifth Benefaction —	3	8	8
Mr. Stephen Aisley —	2	2	0
Rev. Dr. Dicken, second Benefaction	2	2	0
E. W. —	10	0	0
I. left at Craven-street —	10	0	0
	<u>£.639</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u>

# BENEFACTION S. 119

*An Account of RECEIPTS and DISBURSEMENTS  
from the 12th of January to the 30th of March,  
1774.*

<i>Dr.</i>		<i>£. s. d.</i>		
To Ballance remaining the 12th of January last	—	145	1	3
To Benefactions as by the foregoing List	—	639	5	6
		<u>£.784 6 9</u>		

<i>Cr.</i>				
	Debtors. Wives. Children.			
By the dis. charge of	} 192 with 131 and 389	472	7	8
Ballance in the hand of Mr. Neild		311	19	1
		<u>£.784 6 9</u>		



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